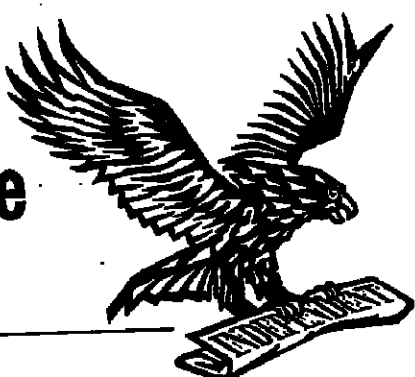




Polly Toynbee
Olympian freaks
page 15



summer of sport

Twickenham ready to climb down
to save the Five Nations

12-page Sports Section inside

**Bridget Jones: the
dinner party nightmare**

Section Two, page 5



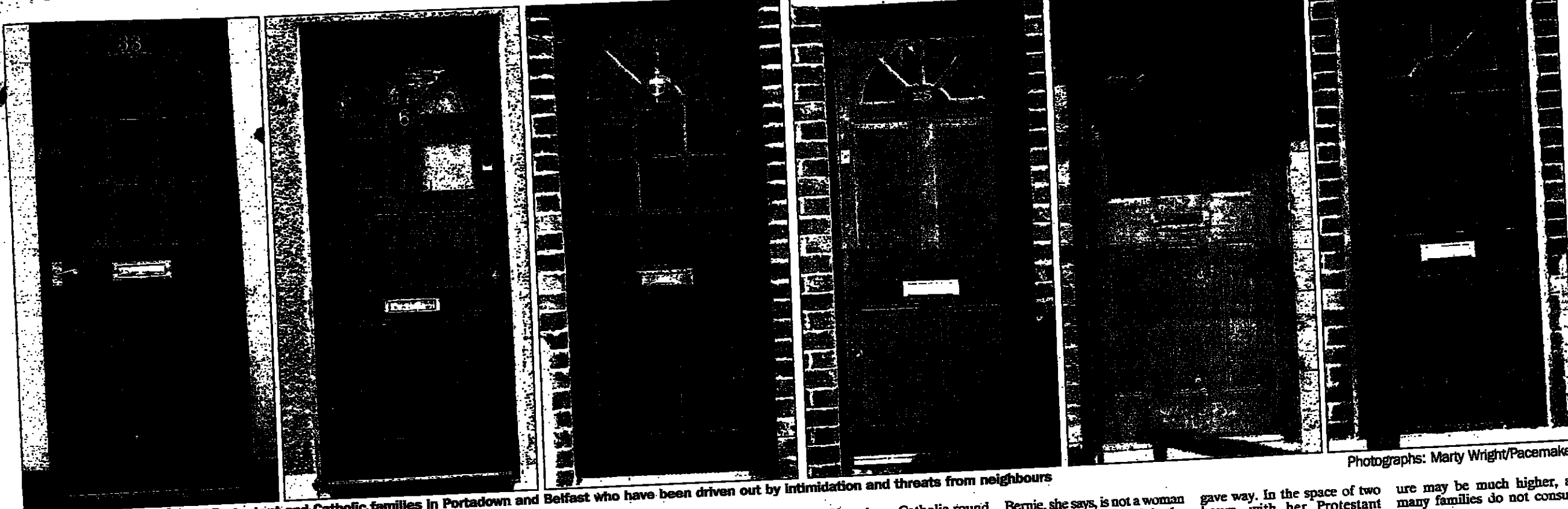
THE INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY 17 JULY 1996

WEATHER Warm and sunny after a cloudy start

40p (UK 45p)

Ethnic cleansing in the UK: Some of the 600 Ulster homes emptied by the mobs in 10 days



Photographs: Marty Wright/Pacemaker

By Jojo Moyes

Nadine McCauley loves her house. She has only just finished decorating it with venetian blinds and a real pine bathroom. But she will not live there. Not until her three-year-old daughter stops dreaming of men in masks who are threatening to burn mummy alive.

Nadine, 23, is a Protestant single mother who moved into her home in Londonderry 18 months ago. Across a small dividing wall is the Catholic district of the estate. Occasionally, when they were drunk, the Catholic boys would throw stones over the wall, but it was nothing serious. It was a nice area; people got on and those who didn't kept themselves to themselves.

Last Thursday night, that changed. Nadine and her daughter were still up at midnight, waiting for the bonfires to start, when out of the window she saw a group of around 15 young men coming down the road.

"I didn't think it was anything serious at first," she says. "I'm used to them throwing stuff." But then the crowd grew and she realised that most of them were wearing masks and then the first petrol bombs came and Nadine started screaming and she knew that it was serious after all.

"I've got shutters but they

were trying to put the petrol through the windows," she said. "I was panicking and my child was just screaming."

There is no back entrance to Nadine's house, so she scooped up Sadie, and she and her neighbours were forced to run the gauntlet of their attackers until they reached the approaching police.

"I was absolutely petrified. We ran in a group past them and they were shouting, throwing

petrol bombs at us. Then the police went in with their batons and protected us."

Nadine is now living with her mother on a different part of the estate. She has been back once, to pick up some clothes. But she says the police have advised her that she should not return and she is too frightened to contemplate it anyway.

She believes that she and her neighbours were targeted by Catholics angry about the

march in Garvaghy Road. She is, she says, a peaceful loyalist who doesn't believe in marches and is bitter that she's been forced out of a mainly Protestant area. But her first concern is Sadie, who doesn't sleep at night and gets hysterical when she does, with bad dreams. Bernie's children don't have bad dreams. That, she says, is because they're used to the hatred that has been directed at them since they were small.

"If you're a Catholic round here you get used to it," she says of her home in Portadown. "I've lost count of the number of times our windows have been done in."

Bernie, her unemployed husband and their four children have lived in a mixed street for more than 20 years. Most of their Protestant neighbours were good people and it was only when the marches took place that there was trouble.

Bernie, she says, is not a woman to frighten easily. "Back in the 70s it would have taken more than a few broken windows to make you shift," she says.

But last week was different. It started with slogans daubed on their two cars and the windows - again. Then the phone wires were cut one night. But when her 12-year-old daughter got a phone call saying she, her husband children would all burn, she says something in her

gave way. In the space of two hours, with her Protestant neighbours' help, they packed their belongings into a van and moved to stay with her husband's family in Catholic west Belfast. They will not go back.

"I'm heartbroken. Three of our children grew up here. I had to leave most of my ornaments and some of my photographs behind. But it's different this time around - they'll kill you. Next time it could be a man with a gun. And it doesn't matter how good your neighbours are - when the mobs come in they're not going to be able to help you, are they?"

The RUC estimates that more than 600 Protestant and Catholic families have moved within the last week, as both sides try to "ethnically cleanse" their areas. Most are staying with family, or in hotels or community centres. Community leaders believe the true figure may be much higher, as many families do not consult them.

Nadine accepts that her plight is not isolated to the Protestants. She says she feels sympathy for Catholic families in the same position.

But yesterday morning she went to her local housing office to see about emergency rehousing. "I got the feeling they weren't taking me seriously," she says, adding: "If I was a Catholic, I would have got a move straight away."

The names of the families have been changed. Anger and no peace, page 2. Politics of fear, letters, page 15.

Memories ignite as easily as houses'

You don't need to be a householder in Northern Ireland, of either the nationalist minority or the unionist majority (and remember, the unionists see themselves as a minority in Ireland) to be aware of the acute danger that lies in wait. This danger is that the fine words of the Joint Downing Street Declaration of 1993, about overcoming the legacy of history, may be going up in flames too.

At any minute, the old burnt-out landscape of 1914, 1922 and 1969 may be with us again. The real fear is that no action will be taken to prevent it. For the most alarming feature of all in this situation has been the rift appearing between the British and Irish governments - the

only two forces able to contain the catastrophe.

Fortunately, there is every sign that they have scared themselves, and that, by letting verbal bygones be bygones, they will continue to refuse to accept that there is no more to be done. However bleak the situation may be, to accept (as was sometimes the case in the past 25 years) that there was no further positive way to go, is an abandonment of the human spirit.

But while they continue to try and try again - which is the only hope - it is worth being clear about exactly what went wrong. Sir Hugh Amessley's decision to allow the march to go ahead after all was so inevitably disastrous that it still seems unbelievable he could have taken it.

The reaction of the nationalist minority to an RUC turnabout which involved not just giving in to Orangemen but beating up the inevitable and relatively peaceable nationalist protest, was itself inevitable.

Memories in Northern Ireland



By Robert Kee

believe he could have taken it. The reaction of the nationalist minority to an RUC turnabout which involved not just giving in to Orangemen but beating up the inevitable and relatively peaceable nationalist protest, was itself inevitable.

Memories in Northern Ireland

have been thinking about the Boyne and Portadown in 1642, but the nationalists were taken straight back to 1969, when the RUC was beating up protesters.

And what is it that makes this memory particularly dangerous? This was the moment that enabled a virtually decomposing IRA, whose pursuit of the republican Holy Grail "betrayed in 1921" no longer seemed of any reality to most nationalists, to assume credibility again by attaching their principle to the defence of that nationalist minority.

But apart from Amessley's decision, what brought about the even more dangerous trouble between the two gov-

ernments? The British Government and Amessley must certainly be believed when they say that ministers played no part in the decision. It was understandable that John Bruton and Dick Spring should presume that this had been so, but mistaken to say so publicly.

Major's and Mayhew's argument that no democratic police force operating within the law should be under Governmental control is faultless. Their appalling mistake was, so often and so publicly, to support the decision to let the march go ahead. Let them now get on with Bruton and Spring in rescuing the future from the flames.

Robert Kee is a historian and broadcaster

Ethnic cleansing in Bosnia

Exclusive: The United Nations has given up returning all Bosnian refugees to their homes, and accepted an "ethnically cleansed" Bosnia. In a complete capitulation, it says it will no longer attempt to return Bosnian refugees to areas where they would be in a minority.

Parents open fire on gun lobby

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

The father of five-year-old Sophie North, who was killed in the Dunblane school massacre, yesterday turned his grief on one of the country's most established and powerful pressure groups - the gun lobby.

"How could I ever have known that my own life would be shattered, and Sophie's taken away, by a lawfully-held weapon, by a man who practised at approved gun clubs, by a man deemed to have every reason to own a number of weapons?" university lecturer Mick North asked at the launch in the House of Commons of a new grass-roots campaign, the Gun Control Network.

But the creation of the country's first gun control group marks out the battle-lines for a 15-style resistance designed to protect the shooting and hunting fraternity, which successfully beat off fundamental reform of the law after the 1987 Hungerford massacre.

Dr North told a Commons press conference: "For the sake of Sophie, her 15 friends and her teacher, for all our sakes, please, no more guns and no more worship of guns."

The experience of the Gun



Mick North at the launch of the campaign. Photograph: Tom Pison. Right: the Independent's response to the Dunblane massacre

Control Network brought an immediate response from the gun lobbyists, who described the network's proposals for a ban on the private ownership of handguns, and other curbs, as "naive and unworkable".

MPs are receiving an increasing number of letters echoing points made in a briefing paper issued last month by the National Rifle Association, countering Labour "propaganda" against properly conducted shooting sports.

The paper, sorting out "fantasy" from "reality" said: "To say

that the sport should be banned because dangerous people cause disasters is to blame one million people for the acts of one madman."

Backed by the families of Hungerford and Dunblane massacre victims, and the results of a new opinion poll showing more than 70 per cent support for a ban on the ownership of handguns, the Network warned that it would monitor the activities of MPs who attempted to block or water down any post-Dunblane legislation.

In the Commons, that mes-

sage was underlined by Liverpool Labour MP Jane Kennedy, who told the Prime Minister that the case against private ownership of handguns had the support of the overwhelming majority of the British people.

John Major said: "I am of course aware of the strength of feeling on this issue." He said ministers were waiting for the recommendations of Lord Cullen's inquiry into Dunblane, and a slot had been left in the legislative timetable for statutory changes that could yet be enacted before the next election.

The Network's agenda includes the banning of multi-shot rifles and shotguns; stricter certification procedures; the minimum age to hold a firearms licence to be raised to 18; the banning of de-activated and replica weapons; tighter rules on the sale of weapons and the banning of mail order sales; and closer monitoring of gun clubs.

Welcoming the creation of the network last night, the shadow Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said: "Tough measures are needed to ensure the protection of the public."

THE INDEPENDENT

Dunblane inquiry told how Hamilton took four minutes and 105 bullets to kill 17



Above all, let us be rid of this

QUICKLY

Dow roller coaster
There was widespread fear in the City last night that gyrations on Wall Street might lead to a stock market crash. Page 17

Negative equity plus
A house price surge has led to the number of households with negative equity falling by more than 40 per cent in the second quarter of this year, a report by Woolwich Building Society said yesterday. Page 20

RFU may play ball
The Rugby Football Union is prepared to concede that television revenue from the Five Nations Championship should be shared equally between the four home nations. The RFU angered the other home unions by negotiating its own £87.5m deal with BSkyB but a climbdown could save the tournament from extinction. Page 2, Summer of Sport

CONTENTS

Section 1	
BUSINESS	16-20
COMMENT	13-15
CROSSWORD	20
LAW REPORT	12
LEADER AND LETTERS	13
OBITUARIES	12
SHARES	15
Section 2	
ARTS	6-9
CRICKET	27
CROSSWORD	30
LISTINGS	28, 29
MONEY	12-17
TV & RADIO	31, 32
WEATHER	29



Saudi 'Mr Fixit' gives Oxford £20m

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Oxford University yesterday announced the establishment of a new business school with £20m given by Wafic Said, the controversial Saudi millionaire businessman and close confidant of Baroness Thatcher.

The bequest is the biggest to the university from an individual since the 1930s, when Lord Nuffield gave the equivalent of £77m at today's prices to set up the school of medical science.

The announcement was delayed until yesterday to allow Mr Said's son to complete his three-year degree course at the university.

Mr Said, a friend of the Saudi Arabian royal family and of the Thatchers, made his money as an international "Mr Fix-it" who introduced Western companies to contacts in the Middle East, and in construction and development.

He came to public attention because of his alleged involvement in the £20m Al-Yamamah arms deal with Saudi Arabia, from which Mark Thatcher is said to have profited by £12m. However, he said he made no money from the deal and denied that he smoothed the way for Mr Thatcher. He has pointed out repeatedly that he is not an arms dealer.

He is a friend and business associate of Jonathan Aitken, the former defence and Treasury minister. He owns a string of successful race horses, two of which this year won the 1000 Guineas and the English Oaks. Each year he contributes thousands of pounds to charity.

Yesterday Mr Said, who has a 3,000-acre estate in Banbury, Oxfordshire, pointed out that his father had founded



Good friends: Wafic Said (left) joined by his wife and son at a party with the then Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher and her family Photograph: Richard Young/Rex

Damascus University in Syria and declared that his gift to Oxford was the result of his warm feelings for Britain.

He has already given money for scholarships at Oxford and has contributed towards the Margaret Thatcher conference centre at Somerville College.

The new Said Business School will aim to compete with the best in the world, in-

cluding Harvard and Stanford in the US. There will be 500 students including 150 on Master of Business Administration courses from Britain, Europe, North America and the Pacific Rim. The school will be situated on the University Club's playing fields, if Oxford city council gives planning permission, and should be ready by the autumn of 1998. The first MBA

course is already oversubscribed. The university aims to raise a further £20m to pay for staff.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Chancellor of the University, said the school would be a milestone, proving that the university could raise funds to keep it in the top international rank. "As no Government

seems likely to provide enough funds to renew and maintain that position, we have to do it ourselves," he said.

Mr Said said: "Management education is a vital part of what makes a nation economically competitive. I am convinced that the new school will be a world leader and will attract the brightest and the best. It will provide an excellent grounding for future business leaders from

all round the world and will be an ambassador for British business."

A university spokesman said that the ethics committee, which was representative of the university, had examined the gift and had given its seal of approval. "Everything he has done has been legal and above board and the donation is completely acceptable," he said.

Several well-known figures also came to pay tribute to the multi-millionaire, including politician William Waldegrave, TV presenter Lloyd Grossman and

newsreader Anna Ford. Rabbi Julia Neuberger, a personal friend of the banker, conducted the service, partly in English and partly in Hebrew. She said: "His friendship is irreplaceable and it is devastating for his family."

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The new controller of Radio 4 will be James Boyle, currently head of Radio Scotland, the BBC announced yesterday. He will succeed Michael Green in the autumn. The post comes under the newly created BBC Broadcasters' directorate. Chief Executive Will Wyatt said: "James is a powerful addition to the creative team." Yesterday he said of Radio 4: "I know the passion it inspires in both its audience and its programme makers and I will listen to their concerns in working to achieve our common aim of maintaining the intelligence and interest which pervade Radio 4 programmes."

Hundreds of mourners gathered yesterday to pay their respects at the funeral of the financier Amschel Rothschild, who hanged himself in Paris last week. Family and friends attended the private service at the cemetery of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in Willesden, north west London. Among those present were representatives of both the French and the English branches of the Rothschild family.

Several well-known figures also came to pay tribute to the multi-millionaire, including politician William Waldegrave, TV presenter Lloyd Grossman and newsreader Anna Ford. Rabbi Julia Neuberger, a personal friend of the banker, conducted the service, partly in English and partly in Hebrew. She said: "His friendship is irreplaceable and it is devastating for his family."

More than 2 million children will be given a booster dose of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine this year at a cost of £18m to prevent future epidemics. The Department of Health announced yesterday that, in future, children will be given the dose at the same time as the pre-school boosters of diphtheria, tetanus and polio vaccine. Under the present immunisation programme, the multi-purpose MMR vaccine is made available to all children aged 12 to 15 months.

The programme will start in October 1996 and in its first year will operate a catch-up programme to 1.3 million children aged 4-6 who missed a campaign in 1994 and have had their pre-school booster. After that, 650,000 are expected to be immunised per year. Glenda Cooper

Tony Blair was accused of running Labour like a "one-party state", by a veteran former Cabinet minister, with a warning that the Labour leadership will face a major challenge over its manifesto pledges on pensions at this year's annual party conference. Baroness Castle, the 85-year-old Labour peer, is going on the warpath to stop it abandoning the manifesto commitment on which it fought the last election, to raise pensions by £5 for single pensioners and £8 per week for couples with restoration of pensions link with earnings through State Earnings Related Pensions.

A fiery campaigner and Social Services Secretary in the Wilson government, who introduced SERPs, Lady Castle will be seeking to mobilise support in the constituencies to have the manifesto voted on line by line at the party conference. Colin Brown

Chemical and biological warfare experts have developed new protection to replace controversial tablets at the centre of the Gulf War Syndrome row. NAPS - nerve agent pre-treatment tablets - were taken every eight hours by British troops to protect against possible Iraqi chemical attacks in the 1991 conflict.

Now, the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency has revealed plans to equip troops with a skin patch, similar to a smoker's patch, impregnated with new drugs, hyoscine and physostigmine. Dr Rick Hall, chief scientist at Porton Down, said the combination of the new drugs provided much more effective protection than existing NAPS tablets.

A restaurateur has lost a five-year fight to clear his name, after being twice convicted of kicking to death a fellow prisoner in a police station cell. Malcolm Kennedy, 48, of Stoke Newington, north London, had protested his innocence from the outset and claimed he was "framed" by a police cover-up to protect an unidentified officer.

In 1991, he was jailed for life for murdering 56-year-old Irish labourer Patrick Quinn in the cell at Hammersmith police station, west London, but a retrial was ordered by the Court of Appeal. The 11-week retrial at the Old Bailey in 1994 resulted in his conviction of manslaughter on the grounds that he was so drunk that he could not form the necessary intent to murder. He was sentenced to nine years. Yesterday his appeal against the conviction was dismissed.

Domesday Book parishes have lost a High Court battle against plans to build thousands of new homes to meet the needs of Stansted airport. Felstead, Takeley, Birchanger and Little Dunmow parish councils in Essex, and a local conservation group, banded together in a bid to save from extinction their "quintessentially English" way of life.

But a judge refused their plea to quash part of the local plan for their area dealing with the location of housing to serve Stansted, Britain's fastest-growing airport. The villagers also wanted a second public inquiry into the highly controversial issue of making the right provision for the airport, expected to expand in the near future from eight million to 15 million passengers a year.

Ulster in turmoil: Parties meet for first time after violence, while London bombs inquiry intensifies

Stormont in disarray as troops go

REBECCA FOWLER

So many words of anger, so little talk of peace. The main political parties gathered in Stormont, Belfast, yesterday, for the first time since last week's violence, to survey the tattered remains of the peace process.

As the talks began, the first battalion, the Parachute Regiment, was withdrawn from the province in what appeared to be an attempt to relieve tension. This brought the number of troops down to 18,000, the same level as just before the IRA ceasefire.

The mood among politicians gathered at Stormont yesterday was such that by lunch time, when Senator George Mitchell, chairman of the peace talks, arrived, the question was not what to talk about, but whether there would be any talks at all. David Irvine, spokesman for the Progressive Unionist Party, summed up the pessimism over the talks: "I suppose the best thing they can hope for is they don't break up after 30 seconds."

Sir Patrick Mayhew and Dick Spring, the British and Irish Government representatives, came face to face at tea time, still smarting from bitter exchanges last week over the handling of the Drumcree march.

Among the politicians at Stormont yesterday were David Trimble, head of the Ulster Unionist Party, the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the DUP, John Hume, leader of the SDLP, and Dr John Alderdice, of the Alliance party - all grim faced, and full of recriminations over the derailed peace process.

Much of the tension centred on the revelation that Mr Trimble had held a meeting with Billy Wright, a convicted UVF terrorist close to the loyalist paramilitaries. He denounced criticisms as "outlandish".

According to his opponents Mr Trimble had breached the Mitchell principles, set up as guidelines for the peace talks, that delegates or the threat of violence in any form.

Seamus Mallon, deputy SDLP leader, said the meeting seemed "intolerable". Dr Alderdice said: "I don't think he even understands the size of the problem he's created in this community."

As the delegates prepared for their individual half-hour talks with Senator Mitchell, Sinn Féin delegates arrived to protest against their exclusion.

Martin McGuinness accused Mr Trimble of leading an "armed rebellion" last week. He



The Rev Ian Paisley outside Stormont Photograph: AFP

said: "The reason we are here is to highlight the hypocrisy of the British government, David Trimble and Ian Paisley ... These talks are a complete debacle."

The unionists were no less outspoken in their criticisms. Mr Paisley attacked the SDLP for withdrawing from the Forum, set up to support the peace talks, and claimed they too should be excluded.

He said: "I've listened to Mr Hume saying he'll talk to anybody, any time, any place. But when I asked him for a bilateral meeting he refused point blank to talk to us."

Mr Paisley refused to be drawn on the controversy over Mr Trimble. "I am not my brother's keeper," he said.

Mr Trimble, meanwhile, in his meeting with Sir Patrick, suggested that the four main parties should meet John Major in an effort to move talks forward.

For the gloomiest politicians it was all too much. Robert McCartney, MP and leader of the UK unionist party, suggested for the present they should call the whole thing off. It emerged last night that Mr Hume and the three other SDLP MPs will meet the Prime Minister at Downing Street this afternoon.

Mr McCartney said: "There is a case to be made [for] a cooling off period ... When emotions are heightened, you have to look at whether that's an atmosphere conducive to discussion."

Anthony Bevin, page 15

Police follow up raids with hunt for explosives

PETER VICTOR

A painstaking search was under way last night for what police believe is a large hoard of explosives stored by an IRA team which had been planning a series of bomb attacks on London.

Enough timers and batteries for 36 bombs were recovered in raids on houses in London on Monday, when seven men were arrested. Forensic science teams continued to search for explosives at addresses in Tooting and Peckham, south London.

Scotland Yard confirmed that officers were searching for explosives intended for bombing public utilities such as gas, water and electricity installations.

The seven men remained in custody under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and were being questioned about the timers.

Police said these and the power units to go with them had been charged up and London and the South-east were only hours away from the start of a potentially devastating campaign.

Commander John Grieve, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said the men would be questioned initially about the plot which the raids disrupted, but they might be questioned later about other matters.

Police have enjoyed a series of successes in uncovering arms and explosive caches in Britain

and Ireland over the past few years.

A few days before the IRA's attack on Osnabrück barracks in Germany last month, police in the Irish Republic swooped on a bomb factory on a remote farm in Clonsilla, Co Laois. Semtex, home-made explosives and bomb-making equipment, including timers and batteries, were among the haul.

Earlier this year, the flat in Lewisham, south London, used by Ed O'Brien, whose bomb blew up on a bus, was found to contain 15kg of Semtex, 20 timers, four detonators, an incendiary device and ammunition.

In April last year, police found almost 40 weapons, including sub-machine guns and rifles outside Belfast. They were thought to be for use by loyalists.

That month, Irish police found three mortars, nine detonators and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition. Officers said the mortars were of the type fired by the IRA.

Also in April, four suspected members of the extreme republican group, the Irish National Liberation Army, including a man once named in court as the organisation's chief of staff, appeared in court charged in connection with the discovery of an arms cache near Dublin.

Free trip to Malta prompts new code of conduct warning to MPs

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

A new Code of Conduct for MPs, published yesterday, was amended at the last minute after revelations in the Independent that four MPs enjoyed an all-expenses-paid trip to a luxury Mediterranean resort as guests of Air Malta this month.

The code tightens up the definition of ethical standards expected of MPs and sets out guidelines to how the new rules should be interpreted, following the vote last year by the Commons to enact the findings of Lord Nolan's inquiry.

The main changes brought in were the ban on paid advocacy, following the "cash for ques-

tions" scandals, and the disclosure of outside earnings related to membership of Parliament.

The code contains six pages of guidance on the advocacy rule, which includes a paragraph about foreign visits inserted by MPs on the select committee on standards and privileges after the Independent's report.

The four MPs who spent the weekend in Malta, to mark Air Malta's 10-millionth passenger, were Lady Olga Maitland (C. Sutton and Cheam), Simon Kaufman (Lab. Manchester Gorton and former shadow foreign secretary) and Barry Sheeran (Lab. Huddersfield). The guide published with

the code says: "Members are reminded that when accepting foreign visits they should be mindful of the reputation of the House."

It adds: "The knowledge obtained by Members on such visits can often be of value to the House as a whole." But goes on: "There is a point at which promoting the interests of [for

example] a foreign government from which hospitality has been received, crosses the line between informed comment and advocacy."

The code also sets out the seven principles of conduct MPs are expected to observe: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.



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11777MPV

The image drivers: headstrong, suggestive, sexy . . .



The adverts with stropky Volkswagen Golf girl, and coy, but worldly, Nicole of Renault Clio fame (right) aim to flatter independent women, but the obsession with image alone may be offputting to serious car-buyers

. . . but for women it's the Wax factor that sells the car

LIZ HUNT

Sex sells to men but Wax works best for the independent, affluent, professional woman who wants to buy a car rather than an image. Television advertisements for the Vauxhall Corsa, fronted by the effervescent Ruby Wax, are, according to new research, the "least" disliked by women.

The advert that women dislike the most is the sex-on-the-bonnet scenario for the Peugeot 306, in which a sultry-voiced female propositions a beautiful man with the line, "Nice car - want to show me what it can do?"

Images of bondage, black magic and domineering women, intended to entice the gentler sex into a Nissan Micra - "The car they all want to drive" - also get the thumbs down. Seventy per cent say that the "women on top strategy", also used by Fiat for the Punto, "does not reflect women's needs".

"Basically, anything that

focuses on the car as a means of sexual attraction is disliked by women," says Julia Jobling of the Cowie Group, one of the country's biggest car retailers which has surveyed 200 women drivers. "What women want from a car is reliability, safety, and economy - boring concepts for the creative egos in advertising agencies - and what they want from the advertising is realism about the way they live, as wives, mothers and people with jobs."

Yet the "buy the car, get the bird" mentality of the 1970s, which demanded a blonde in bikini to be draped over every new motor, still permeates thinking by car manufacturers and agencies. And when women cease to be sex objects in adverts, they become sexually aggressive instead.

Manufacturers may invest heavily in developing cars for women - who account for more than 60 per cent of sales in the small car market - but their attempts at promoting the vehi-



Popular image: The Vauxhall Corsa advertisement, fronted by Ruby Wax, was least disliked by women in the research

cles on television, at a cost of £200m a year, leaves almost two-thirds of the female popu-

lation feeling patronised, and three-quarters complaining that the adverts stereotype women.

Gavin Green, editor-in-chief of Car magazine agrees: "Some of the advertising is so obscure,

so image-oriented. It's allegedly being done to appeal to women, but it's all emotional

imagery, nothing to do with the fact that the car is good because of . . . etc, etc."

The classic advert of the 1980s, which launched model Paula Hamilton as the Volkswagen Golf girl who ditches her rich lover, a fur coat and her jewellery but keeps the keys to the car, may represent the peak in women-oriented car advertising. "She may have been a kept woman but she was making a break for her independence and that summed up everything about the car and appealed to women everywhere," one industry source said.

Moderation is the key it seems and research carried out by Renault for its "Papa and Nicole" Clio campaign, the second most disliked advert in the Cowie research, suggests that viewers object to any attempt to make Nicole too sexual or even too independent.

Cathy Baker, strategic advertising planner for Publicis which devised the long-running "Nicole" campaign, said

the adverts were intended to appeal to men and women across the board, hence Papa, and his glamorous lover, plus Nicole and her boyfriends and her grandmother, too.

"Television is used traditionally to create an image, to stimulate interest and to get the viewer on the long list. Other advertising outlets - like magazines, newspapers, mail shots - are used to target buyers," Ms Baker said.

Advertising that most appeals to women combines humour with an independent image, which is probably why Ruby Wax works so well - whether she's marshalling men on a shopping trip, or escaping from her colonic irrigation session at a health farm in her nippy little Corsa. The Wax advert also succeeded in the most important rating for car manufacturers. It topped the brand awareness league with 90 per cent recognition by women drivers.

Leading article, page 13

Britons roam wider but leave the bicycle at home

LOUISE JURY

Britons are travelling further and faster, relying more than ever on the car, while abandoning the bicycle and walking.

The average Briton now travels 6,511 miles within Great Britain a year - the highest figure yet recorded. Mr and Ms Average spend 15 days of the year doing 1,052 journeys at an average speed of 18.2mph, according to Government figures published yesterday. A quarter of a century ago the average speed was 12.7mph.

The latest National Travel Survey is based on the experiences of more than 10,000 families from 1993 to last year. The survey is used by the Department of Transport for forecasting traffic levels and monitoring accident rates.

"This kind of data helps because we can see, for example, that people are buying more bikes than ever but fewer are using them. Then we can launch something like last week's national cycling strategy to help to do something about it," a spokesman said.

	1975/76	1985/86	1989/91	1993/95
Walk	325	350	328	308
Bicycle	30	25	21	17
Car driver	261	317	387	389
Car passenger	167	200	232	230
Motorcycle	9	9	6	4
British Rail	11	12	12	10
Taxi/minicab	3	7	11	9
All forms	935	1,024	1,091	1,052

The typical Briton makes fewer but longer journeys than five years ago, when he or she covered 6,475 miles. Shopping and other personal business account for most of the increase.

More than four-fifths of all personal travel mileage is done by car and nearly seven out of 10 households have access to one, with a subsequent drop in demand for slower modes of transport such as buses.

Mr and Ms Average walk only 200 miles a year - 3 per cent of all mileage compared to 5.3 per cent 20 years ago. City-dwellers and Scots go by foot more than people in the shires. Women aged between 16 and

29 walk most frequently of all. Cycling accounts for only 37 miles per person per year. After particularly rapid growth in the 1980s, rail travel has now fallen back to its 1985-86 level.

Young and old women use buses most frequently.

The figures show that men of all ages travel further than women, with men aged between 30 and 59 the most frequent travellers, covering an average 11,014 miles a year. But women are catching up.

The number of women holding a driving licence rose from 29 to 55 per cent between 1975-76 and 1993-95. Eighty per cent of men had a driving licence by 1989.

Commuting is the most important single purpose for travel, accounting for as much as a fifth of all mileage. The cost per mile of going to work by public transport has risen by more than the rate of inflation, with fares on buses outside London, for example, soaring by 54 per cent in the last 10 years.

Getting to work now takes longer, up from 24 minutes five years ago to 25 minutes. The central London commuter has an even worse deal, with a typical journey time of 56 minutes, up from 54.

London is the exception to several rules. Londoners travel an average 5,100 miles a year, 22 per cent below the British average. But they walk 21 per cent further than the rest of the country and travel twice as much by rail.

The elderly do not travel as much as the middle-aged but are travelling more. They increasingly have access to a car but they drive more slowly than other groups, with a third of journeys in which a man aged between 70 and 79 is the driver completed at under 30mph.

Equity deal set to release classic programmes from TV vaults

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Equity, the actors' union, yesterday backed a controversial new payments deal for cable and satellite networks, which is expected to unlock the vast BBC and ITV archives for screening on subscription TV services.

Broadcasters predicted that many old and once-popular programmes from the BBC and ITV vaults would at last begin to replace the steady diet of imports from Australia and the US, which has dominated cable and satellite schedules in part because of the lack of a deal with Equity.

The agreement, which will lead to a royalty payments system set at 17 per cent for the sale of BBC and ITV pro-

grammes to the so-called secondary market, was approved by a margin of two to one in a postal ballot. It covers pay channels such as Sky Television, UK Gold and the new Granada Plus service, which will feature repeats of such series as *Coronation Street* and *Cracker*.

The result was a victory for the council of British Actors' Equity, which negotiated the deal with the two leading broadcasters, and which campaigned vigorously to convince members to back it.

A vocal minority had fought to reject the deal, warning that a royalty payment, based on a percentage of the amount for which programmes are sold, would not be as lucrative as the traditional "residuals" system, which guarantees set payment for all repeats, based on the

original fee paid to billed actors. The minority argued that the BBC and ITV might be encouraged to sell programmes at less than market rates to cable and satellite channels that the broadcasters themselves control. This, it was claimed, would cheat actors. Two ITV companies have already launched pay-TV channels, and several more are poised to do so.

But as part of the deal, Equity, the BBC and ITV have promised to abide by the decisions of an independent arbiter in the event of any disagreement about the true market value of a programme sale.

Ian McGarry, general secretary of Equity, said: "The agreement will enable the BBC and ITV companies to sell their archive and new programming to the growing UK cable and

satellite market, which up until now has been almost totally dominated by foreign imported programming."

To sweeten the deal for members, the BBC and ITV have also agreed to contribute to a new pension scheme for actors, and will increase the minimum fees it pays for programming on the main channels.

The Equity Council is expected to start negotiations with Pact, the independent producers' association, to reach a deal on payments for repeats.

Mr McGarry conceded that the vote had been divisive, and moved quickly to heal the wounds. "I know that some members were reluctant to accept a royalty system," he said. "But I can assure them that the new agreements will produce significant additional earnings."

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news

Botham hits back at Imran's 'unfair' attack

CLARE GARNER

The naked personal animosity between Ian Botham and Imran Khan was obvious in the High Court yesterday as the former England captain spent his second day in the witness box during the libel action between two of the world's finest cricketers.

The court heard that the former Pakistan captain had written a savage review of Botham's biography, published in the *Sunday Times* on 9 October 1994, in which he referred to the

England player as Rambotham — a man who portrayed himself as a "Sylvester Stallone hero" but was in fact a bitter man who had "lost in life".

Charles Gray QC, for Botham and Allan Lamb, read to the court some of the damning extracts from Imran's review: "... on more than one occasion Rambotham had to sort out the baddies not by the cricket bat or ball, but with a beefy punch. He also had to survive an Indiana Jones-style tour to the jungles of Pakistan. Even in five-star hotels he had to face

creaky-crawlies. I'm surprised he did not get attacked by a crocodile in the bath. After the [hotel] ordeal ... he had to face cheating Pakis on the cricket field. And with an upset stomach." Botham told the court he felt this was an unfair attack.

Imran wrote in his review that Botham had twice — in 1981 and 1989 — turned down trips to South Africa because of "cold financial calculations" rather than the country's racist policies. Botham said this was "totally untrue" and that he always stood up to racism. It was,

however, the remark of a South African businessman which had called a halt to the trip. Botham told the court. When he was told by the businessman that he could dine in the same restaurant in South Africa with the West Indian cricketer Viv Richards only if Richards were made an "honorary white", he cancelled the visit. "The financial side never even got discussed", Botham told the court.

Imran said in the review that he was in "no doubt" about who was the "real hero of the book". "Botham's wife Kathy. I wish her all the luck for the remainder of her marriage." Looking at Imran and his five-months pregnant wife Jimima, Botham hit back: "I thought it was an extremely arrogant remark ... my wife and I have a very successful marriage thank you."

Botham said he never wanted the case to come to trial. "As I said in the letter [to Imran in 1994] quite clearly all I wanted was an apology ... to have two sportsmen standing here in court is not what I wanted. Then the whole game changed. That made my blood boil."

The court has heard that about a week before the trial, Imran announced that he wanted to introduce a new defence which alleged that Botham was guilty of ball-tampering in two Test matches in 1982. Television footage shown by Mr Gray, for Botham, showed the cricketer with the ball but Botham dismissed the claim that he was cheating. "I was simply trying to get the ball back into a circular shape," he said. He pointed out he was doing it "in full view of the umpires" and said it was an act he had done throughout his

career. In the second set of Test-match footage he was shown throwing the ball back to the wicketkeeper. Illustrating with a ball in his hand, Botham explained how he became sweaty when he had been bowling for a long time and how the new ball, kept in the umpire's pocket for an hour or two in a plastic bag, could be "quite moist". Said Botham: "[The umpire] used to get his gloves, go like this, and throw it back to me. No more. Nothing sinister."

Cross-examining Botham, George Carman QC, for Imran, began by asking him if he was always truthful. Botham replied: "As often as I can be. We're not all saints."

Mr Carman then asked Botham why he had issued a warning against the *Mail on Sunday* and the *News of the World* in 1994 but subsequently dropped them. "Why sue in the first place?" he asked Botham. He suggested the reason was that Botham knew that the substance of what was said in the articles was true and that this would be proved in court. The case continues today.

After the party: Punters who over imbibe after a night at the races find that the journey home may take longer than expected

Police on a winner in drink-driver stakes

JAMES CUSICK

There is no shortage of places to drink on a sunny summer evening at Royal Windsor racecourse: the Party Politics bar, the Raffles Nightclub bar, the Piper champagne tent, the Perrier-Jouet bar, the Jamstick bar, the bar, the bars of the Paddock Pavilion and the Cocktail and the Buffet bar.

Rodney, from Hammer-smith in London, kitted out in blazer, panama hat and scarcely touched binoculars, appreciated the difficulties he was about to face. On his mobile telephone, he was shouting: "George, listen, George, George! Where are we drinking tonight, where are we drinking?"

By the time the jockeys had mounted for the evening's first race, the 6.30 Piccadilly Selling Stakes, the Windsor car park was full, with about two thousand cars. George had parked his green TVR in the members' area. Rodney arrived by train and coach from Windsor station. A shout of "Rodney, hey!" was followed by the quick disappearance of a jug of Pimm's No. 1 and a dash to the Tote window for a wager on the 7.00, the Thunder "Thrill of it All" Maiden Fillies Stakes.

In the car park a few chauffeurs chatted to each other. "Racing? One long drinking session, interrupted by a few horses ... a few chauffeurs were at it too". However, one night at Ascot a few years ago, "they [the police] got them all outside the course on the one-way system. Ducks in shooting gallery, it was."

Hambros, sponsor of the 8.30 race, had laid on special coaches from London and Brighton for its corporate hospitality guests. One of the bank's employees said: "We're

ever, one night at Ascot a few years ago, "they [the police] got them all outside the course on the one-way system. Ducks in shooting gallery, it was."

Armed with new radar equipment from the United States, known as the LTI 20-20, PC Martin Harper checked the speeds of cars along Alma Road and Imperial Road, both 30mph zones. Cars passed: 38, 41, 43, 36, 40, 67, "Sixty-seven!"

As PC Harper waved the car down, it slowed, almost stopped, and then accelerated away. Two officers ran back to the car and gave chase. They did not catch it. Two more chases ensued, after two more "failed-to-stops". Among those who did stop and were breath-tested, there were no positive readings.

Sgt Oliphant said: "So far this month we've had 23 positive tests. That's around Slough, Eton, Windsor and the near motorways. Last month there were over 50 positives."

And those that got away? "Chances are they were over the limit and knew it. They knew they would be facing a ban, a large fine, and so they did what they did."

Although the police in Windsor and elsewhere are still kept busy with drink-drivers, the message over the past decade has been getting through. Last year, 11,900 drivers and riders in road accidents were breath-tested and 6.3 per cent failed.

drink-driving.

Half an hour after the bars at the races closed, Sergeant Pete Oliphant, and his team of officers from Thames Valley's traffic division at Taplow, were out on the streets around Windsor and the routes back to the M4 and M25 motorways.

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Road test: A woman driver being questioned by police after race night at Windsor

Photograph: John Lawrence

In 1985 45,000 drivers were tested: 28.1 per cent failed.

More people, on the Department of Transport's statistics, show that people are generally drinking less if they

drive; more people are leaving their cars at home; and, as a result, accidents related to alcohol are much less numerous. Yesterday Mr Norris said: "We are focusing the cam-

paign on what a tiny, selfish minority of drivers' thoughtless behaviour might do to themselves, as well as the tragedies they may cause others. I hope the message finally gets through."

The Portman Group, the group set up and financed by the drinks industry to promote sensible drinking yesterday announced that it was setting up a task force with the aim of

curbing under-age drinking. The group, which plans to hold its first meeting next month, will canvass opinions from under-18s on how best to tackle the problem.

Dalai Lama urges British help for 'occupied' Tibet

LOUISE JURY

The Dalai Lama yesterday appealed for British help in bringing China to the negotiating table at the start of a high-level diplomatic offensive on behalf of his Tibetan people.

Speaking to 200 members of both Houses of Parliament, the Tibetan leader said he wanted talks on the future of Tibet and called for "urgent intervention and action" by the international community to secure them.

China had earlier warned that the decision to allow the Dalai Lama to address peers and MPs would have an adverse effect on Sino-British relations. The Tibetan leader admitted the delicate negotiations over Hong Kong made it more difficult for Britain to exert pressure. But he said: "The reality today is that Tibet is an occupied country under colonial

rule. This is the essential issue which must be addressed and resolved through negotiations."

"Tibet — an ancient nation with a unique culture and civilisation — is disappearing fast. In endeavouring to protect my nation from this catastrophe, I have always sought to be guided by realism, moderation and patience."

"However, it has now become clear that our efforts alone are not sufficient to bring the Chinese government to the negotiating table."

The best way of solving conflict was through dialogue, he said. "As soon as some positive indication comes from the Chinese side, I'm ready to talk."

The Dalai Lama has been the political as well as the spiritual leader since China invaded Tibet in 1950 while fellow countrymen who remained have suffered repression and

political persecution under Chinese rule.

The week-long visit by the Dalai Lama, his eighth to Britain, follows a successful visit to Germany last month after which the Bonn parliament backed a resolution condemning China's human rights record in Tibet. China retaliated by cancelling visits by senior leaders, jeopardising trading links.

In Britain, an intense lobbying campaign secured him a meeting yesterday with Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, and he is due to meet Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, today.

Cui Tiantai, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, said: "By inviting the Dalai Lama to visit Britain and offering him a forum, the Tibetan group of the British House of Commons abets the Dalai's action to split the motherland. It will bring

about adverse effects to the Sino-British relations."

But the visit was thought unlikely to develop into a diplomatic crisis.

Yesterday, the Dalai Lama repeated his assertion that he was not seeking full independence for Tibet at present but wanted a compromise that respected the rights of his people.

He dismissed allegations from British Buddhists that he was persecuting his own people. The New Kadampa Tradition claims he sent security forces into Tibetan refugee settlements in India to root out worshippers of a deity, Dorje Shugden. His British opponents have threatened to demonstrate against him.

The Dalai Lama urged journalists to go to India to check for themselves. He added that the Dorje Shugden deity "degenerates an essential part of Buddhism".

Charities stunned as Diana quits

The Princess of Wales has resigned as patron or president of almost 100 charities, it was announced yesterday, writes Louise Jury.

The move, only a day after her marriage to the Prince of Wales ended, shocked many of the bodies she has championed in recent years.

Instead she is to concentrate on helping six: the Centrepiece charity, which provides shelter for the homeless; the English National Ballet; the Leprosy Mission, linked with Mother Teresa; the National AIDS Trust; Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, which specialises in cancer

research and treatment.

Those she has dropped include the British Red Cross, Help the Aged, the Parkinson's Disease Society, Barnardos and Relate, the marriage guidance body.

Jane Atkinson, spokeswoman for the Princess, said the decision was made "with regret". It is understood she wanted her former charities to be free to seek another royal patron, now she is technically no longer a member of the Royal Family.

Ms Atkinson said: "The Princess is hoping to develop a hard-working programme with private and public engagements in partnership with her chosen charities."

Although letters were sent out to the charities on Monday, some did not know of the decision when the announcement was made yesterday. They reacted with surprise at the news, which came only months after the Princess expressed a desire to be a "Queen of hearts" in her *Panorama* interview.

Many of the losers may find it difficult to attract financial support without a star-attraction royal as patron. John Mayo, director of Help the Aged, said their income had quadrupled under the Princess's patronage and they were "greatly saddened" to lose her.

"The Princess of Wales has brought light and hope to the

lives of thousands of older people both at home and abroad."

Diane Yeo, chief executive of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, said she was sorry the Princess had resigned and hoped they would be able to find a new royal supporter. At least one charity, the Ty Hafan Children's Hospice in South Wales which is not yet built, plans to ask her to change her mind.

Of the chosen charities, Derek Bodell, director of the National Aids Trust, said they were thrilled: "We believe she has done more than almost anyone else to combat the stigma and misconceptions that still surround HIV/Aids."

DAILY POEM

Not Adlestrop

By Dannie Abse

Not Adlestrop, no — besides, the name hardly matters. Nor did I languish in June heat. Simply, I stood, too early, on the empty platform, and the wrong train came in slowly, surprised, stopped. Directly facing me, from a window, a very, very pretty girl leaned out.

When I, all instinct, stared at her, she, all instinct, inclined her head away as if she'd divined the much married life in me, or as if she might spot, up platform, some unlikely familiar.

For my part, under the clock, I continued my scrutiny with unmitigated pleasure. And she knew it, she certainly knew it, and would not glance at me in the silence of not Adlestrop.

Only when the train heaved noisily, only when it jolted, when it slid away, only then, daring and secure, she smiled back at my smile, and I, daring and secure, waved back at her waving. And so it was, all the way down the hurrying platform as the train gathered atrocious speed towards Oxfordshire or Gloucestershire.

To their hugely successful *Poems on the Underground*, Cassell have added an anthology of railway poetry, *Mungols Grow Wild on Platforms*, published tomorrow, and edited by Peggy Poole, of which Dannie Abse's contribution is part. Meanwhile, the Arts Council has recently published its first and comprehensive Poetry Survey. With poetry now accounting for 2 per cent of the total UK book market (£15-17.5m in value terms) and read regularly by 10 per cent of adults, it continues to find its most receptive audience in children, suggesting that sound, rhythm and rhyme, like music, are things to which we have an innate and early response.

School governors try to block tables

More than 1,000 school governing bodies have pledged to withhold the results of tests and assessments for 11-year-olds in an attempt to block primary school league tables.

The National Association of Head Teachers said it expected more to follow. It denied that the protest over the Government's U-turn on the tables had been a flop. The general secretary, David Hart, said the result of the union's survey amounted to a "substantial vote of no confidence by governors in the Government's policy."

The NAHT survey covered about 12,000 schools where children sat National Curriculum tests in May, and where it has members. Of the 3,436 who replied, 1,272 governing bodies said they would withhold results. 1,740 said they would not and 424 had yet to decide.

Many of those deciding to submit results had written to the

NAHT making it clear they did so with reluctance, Mr Hart said. Heads, teachers and governors were angered in February when the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Shephard, announced that the Government would publish national performance tables of this year's 11-year-olds' tests in English, maths and science.

She had previously promised to wait until the tests — only in their second year — had "bedded down". She changed her mind after last year's results showed that only half of 11-year-olds had reached the expected standard in maths and English.

The Government believes "league tables" have helped to raise secondary school standards and Mrs Shephard said primary schools clearly needed the same stimulus. Mr Hart said the survey showed schools had "not been deceived by the Government's U-turn".

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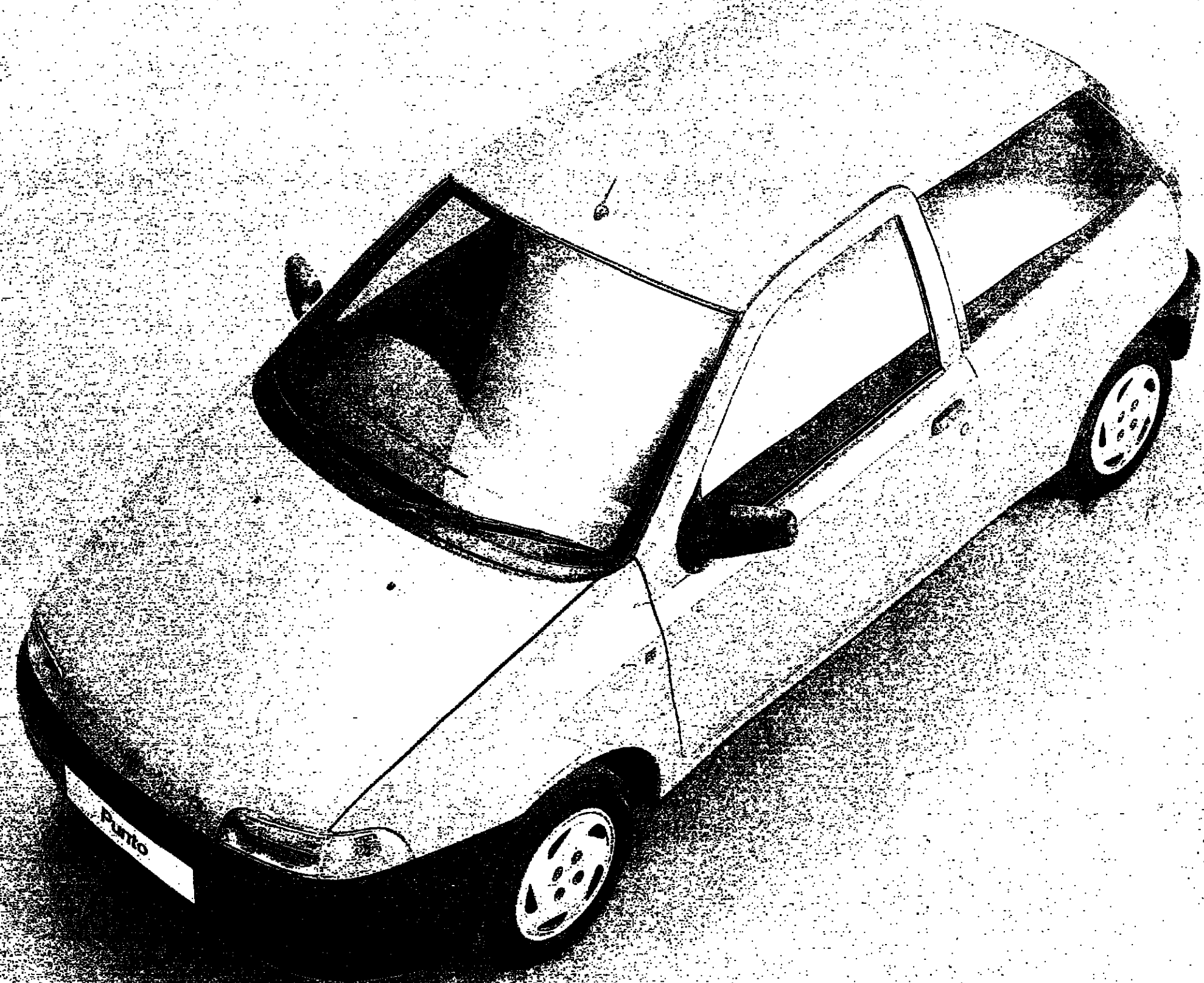
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politics

Earnings gap 'widening' in flexible market

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Earnings inequality in Britain is rising dramatically, increasing poverty and marginalisation, according to a new report from a leading economic think-tank.

The stark warning that the UK and US need to tackle the social consequences of their flexible labour markets is all the more notable for coming from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, a body which has in the past lavishly praised the British Government for policies which have reduced unemployment.

The new report says growing inequality is not an acceptable price to pay for reduced unemployment. It takes the view that the UK has chosen to trade off equality for jobs, in contrast to high-unemployment Continental economies.

Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown said the figures "confirmed what we already know - that under the Tories only those at the top have benefited from Government policies."

The OECD's annual *Employment Outlook* foresees only

a small drop in unemployment in the industrial countries as a whole in the next two years. The total will remain a little below 34 million in 1997, it predicts.

Britain is one of the handful of countries where it foresees a small decline in joblessness. It puts unemployment at an average of 2.1 million next year, and implies that it could fall below 2 million by the end of 1997. It predicts a UK unemployment rate of 7.5 per cent in 1997, just below the OECD average.

The report, to be published tomorrow, notes that the UK and the US are the only two countries where inequality is still increasing rapidly. Low-paid workers are also widespread in both countries. A quarter of all full-time workers in America and a fifth in Britain are in low-paid jobs, compared with around 10-15 per cent in other industrial economies.

The two Anglo-Saxon economies also have the lowest rates of upward mobility out of low-paid jobs, and the highest earnings volatility. Surprisingly, however, there is no evidence of an upward trend in temporary work, which accounts for

a lower proportion of jobs in Britain than in many other countries.

The report says: "The risk now facing a number of OECD countries is that labour market exclusion can easily turn into poverty and dependency." It recommends changes to taxation and benefits to help people escape the poverty and unemployment traps, perhaps targeting reforms on groups that traditionally fare poorly in the labour market, such as the young, the long-term unemployed and lone parents.

It also argues that too many young people leave school without the knowledge needed for jobs in today's economy.

Britain, it points out, has the lowest percentage of 18-year-olds at school. Only 32 per cent of young men and 38 per cent of women remain in education at that age, compared to the OECD averages of 64 per cent and 66 per cent.

Many adult workers will need continuously to improve their skills if they are to reduce their risk of being out of work, the OECD says, placing a new emphasis on lifelong learning.

Half of jobless refuse work paying less than benefit

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Around half the unemployed will turn down work if it leaves them worse off than being on benefit, a new study published yesterday suggests.

But the work ethic remains strong and almost a quarter of the unemployed took jobs knowing they would be worse off as a result.

The study shows that money is far from the only consideration when people decide whether to take a job or remain on benefit, the authors conclude.

"The picture is much more complicated than the simple view that financial incentives alone decide whether people take work," Janet Ford of the University of York's Centre for Housing Policy said. "They do predominate, but not in every case."

The wage aspirations of the unemployed were modest. Main breadwinners were usually looking for net earnings of between £130 and £160 a week, or had taken jobs paying that amount. For most that only

just covered their bills, food and clothing, leaving them little better off than on benefit.

Home owners with mortgages were most likely to work out what they needed to live on but still take jobs which paid less than their outgoings - a course which left them at greater risk of poverty and debt as there is no in-work benefit to help owner-occupiers with housing costs.

Many tenants assumed they had to meet housing costs in full once in work, when in fact housing benefit helps. But the study casts doubt on the effectiveness of the in-work benefits which are increasingly being used to underpin low paid jobs.

Half of those eligible for family credit and housing benefit - the chief in-work benefits - were not claiming them. Reasons given included difficulty in claiming them in the past, a strong desire to be free from benefit, the "hassle" of claiming and the belief that work should pay a living wage.

The findings suggest that recent rises in rent and therefore benefit levels do not necessarily or always increase work disin-

centives. "However they greatly add to the risk that those taking low paid jobs will find themselves no better or even worse off," Ms Ford said. And further increases might alter the decisions in favour of not working.

Into Work? is available from Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 40 Water End, York YO3 6LP. More than 4 million people are out of work - twice the number officially unemployed, according to analysis of government figures published yesterday, writes *Barrie Clemen*.

Many of the "economically inactive" are members of an underclass which has multiplied three-fold over the last 20 years and who have given up looking for work.

On examination of official data the left-leaning Employment Policy Institute found that 19.1 per cent of households have no working adults compared with 6.5 per cent 20 years ago.

The Government statistics show that 4.5 million individuals of working age lived in workless households in 1994 compared with 1.2 million two decades previously.



Remembrance: Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, and Tony Benn MP, attending a Service of Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey yesterday for Lord Jay, the Labour politician and 'original Euro-sceptic' who died aged 88 on 6 March. Photograph: Jane Baker

Rebels retreat over MoD homes sale

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Tory rebels last night retreated over the £1.6bn sale of armed forces homes after Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, made a series of concessions to head off a Government defeat in the Commons.

The Commons vote on the sale was 307-275, a government majority of 32.

However, there were strong suspicions among Labour MPs that the concessions were reinforced by heavy Treasury pressure. Senior Conservative

sources said Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had sent Mr Portillo a note before the debate warning that decisions on major procurement schemes would be held up until the sale of the defence houses was clarified.

The Cabinet has delayed decisions on the £2bn replacement for the Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft and two missile orders. The decisions could be taken at Cabinet's overseas policy and defence committee tomorrow and an announcement that would mean thousands of jobs is due.

Mr Portillo told the rebels that the sale and lease-back con-

tract for 58,000 MoD homes would ensure families of armed forces members were consulted before the new owners could release more houses for sale by moving their present tenants to "comparable" accommodation.

The quality of local schools would be taken into account, before accepting a transfer of sites and, if the new owners proposed to redevelop a site after 25 years of the lease had expired, the Government would insist on four years' notice.

The Defence Secretary also pledged "there will be no more mixing of civilian families among service homes; commu-

nities will be kept intact so as to maintain the security and mutual support of the patch".

Julian Brazier, who led the threatened rebellion by more than 20 Tory MPs, signalled that he would not be voting against the Government, Nicholas Winterton, who signed a Commons motion opposing the sale - said he would now support the Government.

Another Tory rebel, Quentin Davies, also signalled a retreat, saying the concession "changes considerably the balance of the whole package".

But Cyril Townsend said it was a "cheap-jack argument"

for Mr Portillo to say the only way to pay for the £100 million refurbishment of the homes was to sell them.

Sir Patrick Cormack also expressed concern that the houses should be sold to a British buyer. Mr Portillo said each bidder had a British element, but would not be drawn further.

A Japanese bank is the front runner to buy the homes.

David Clark, the shadow Defence Secretary, said the deal was bad for the defence families and the Ministry of Defence, but made it clear a Labour Government would honour contracts signed by the Tories.

Tories cost Labour assemblies at £100m

JAMES CUSICK

The Conservative Party's election machine yesterday returned its attention to Labour's commitment to devolved assemblies, and claimed that the stakes at the general election would be "nothing short of the integrity and survival of our country".

The latest Tory attack on Labour's plans, following the Prime Minister's solo assault during the Scottish Grand Committee in Dumfries a fortnight ago, focused on the cost

of devolved assemblies for Scotland and Wales. Labour has not reaffirmed its belief that assemblies for English regional chambers would be included in the plan to devolve power away from Westminster, but Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative party chairman, nevertheless included them in his arithmetic, calculating a cost to the tax payer of £108m a year.

Dr Mawhinney also unveiled another poster that will be appearing across the United Kingdom. Labour's Union Jack is depicted as a white flag with

the message: "New Labour. No Britain."

The number crunchers at Tory Central Office stated that a Scottish Parliament would cost about £50m a year, with a capital cost of £36m spread over the first five years. It estimates that the new parliament building would cost £12m, with annual running costs of £43m.

The annual cost of the Welsh assembly is put at £34, with running costs of £29m a year. Labour's nine regional chambers are estimated to cost £19m. Such calculations appear to

ignore the costs currently incurred by the Scottish and Welsh Offices. Regardless, Dr Mawhinney said that if the assemblies went ahead, "Britain would be reduced to a collection of squabbling, inward looking principalities."

The Tories have taken 500 poster sites in England, 100 in Scotland and 70 in Wales, showing that the constitutional debate at the election will not be confined to north of the Border and in Wales.

The idea of expensive devolution scaring away badly needed inward investment, a theme

championed by Mr Major and by Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was reinforced yesterday by William Hague, the Welsh Secretary.

Labour dismissed Tory jibes, with the Shadow Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, saying it was inconceivable that, for example, Korean businessmen had not carefully studied Labour's plans before choosing Newport, south Wales, for a £1.7bn microchip complex creating more than 6,000 jobs. He accused the Tories of producing "scare stories and bogus figures".

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Birt's pay defended by BBC chairman

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

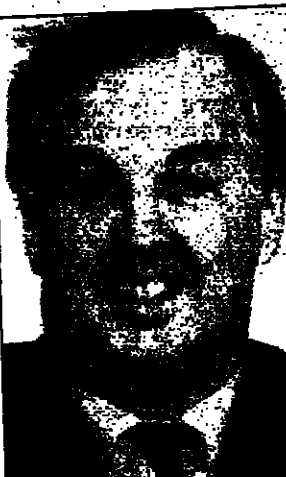
John Birt, the director-general of the BBC, is worth "every penny" of the £35,000 pay rise which took his salary to £299,495 – revealed yesterday in its annual report – according to the chairman of the corporation.

"I congratulate the director-general on his earnings. Every penny is extremely well deserved," said Sir Christopher Bland, himself on an annual salary of about £90,000, including benefits. Since 1992, the salary earned by the director-general has doubled from the £150,000 a year paid to Michael Checkland.

However, news of Mr Birt's remuneration angered members of Britain's largest broadcasting union, Bectu, whose chief negotiator, Gerry Morrison, said: "Birt seems to be getting like one of these industry fat cats who earn their pay rises by ensuring others have no jobs or see their pay cut. Our members have just tightened their belts again and accepted a 2.6 per cent pay increase."

But Sir Christopher said the publicly funded corporation paid "the median" earned by executives in similar positions in other broadcasting organisations – a statement which may intrigue BBC staff, whose pay rises were limited to 4.5 per cent in the last financial year and almost all of whom are paid less salaries than their commercial counterparts.

By contrast, the annual report discloses "efficiency savings" of £100m last year. The money, it says, was used to fund four



Sir Christopher: "Every penny extremely well deserved"

ITV in £100m film challenge to Channel 4

MARIANNE MACDONALD

ITV is to pour £100m into the British film industry in a bid to recreate the phenomenal success of Channel 4 films such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

The move, launched yesterday, is supported by the six largest owners of the ITV franchises: Carlton, Granada, United News and Media, Yorkshire, Tyne Tees TV, HTV and Scottish Television. The first four companies are pledged to produce two films a year, while HTV and Scottish TV will produce one apiece.

ITV's aim is to make ten films a year, spending £20m annually for the next five years – twice the BBC's yearly expenditure, and equal to the sum Channel 4 has committed to the film industry over the next four years.

The Channel 4 successes which inspired the project, and which last year won 37 awards around the world, also include *Shallow Grave*, *The Madness of*

King George, *Trainspotting* and *Secrets and Lies*. BBC films have been less successful, but include *Truly Madly Deeply*, *Cold Comfort Farm* and *Priest*.

ITV made it clear it would be not be commissioning "art-house" films – a swipe at Channel 4 – but films which appealed to mass audiences. Nor will the companies aim to spend the money on spin-offs from popular dramas such as *Cracker*.

In the 1970s and 1980s, ITV threw up two hits: *My Left Foot* and *Jack and Sarah*. Others, such as *Will and Stacey* and *Upper Lips*, have not stood the test of time.

LWT's managing director, Steve Morrison, said the initiative would be "a huge incentive to make the... popular films we have not been able to make". But asked if ITV would rule out another "uncommercial" movie such as *My Left Foot*, he was emphatic: "We would commission it again," he said.

Mr Morrison and Marcus Plantin, ITV's network director, were unable to give details of how the operation would work, beyond suggesting that each of the ITV companies would work from a central "film unit".

The first ITV films will go into production in the spring and will be screened in 1998. Distribution is not settled, however, and a production slate has yet to begin. The ITV companies also have a reputation for internal disagreements.

"This is day one," said Nigel Wainwright, chairman of Carlton. "I'm sure there will need to be discussions and arrangements with distributors."

Giving voice to a harrowing tale of wartime courage



Under the sun: Jennifer Ehle was attracted by the story

Robert Milliken
joins British
actress Jennifer
Ehle on location

Jennifer Ehle is sitting under the hot Queensland sun looking weather-beaten. Her face, arms and hands are smeared with dirt and blood. Her dress is torn. It is a far cry from *Pride and Prejudice*, the BBC series that made her a star in the role of Elizabeth Bennet.

Yet, maybe not so far in spirit. Ms Ehle is half way through a three-month location shoot for a film, *Paradise Road*, based on a true but largely unrecognised story about a group of British, Australian and Dutch women who survived Japanese imprisonment in the Second World War by forming a choir.

After initial shooting in Penang, Singapore and Sydney, production of the film – also starring Glenn Close and Pauline Collins, and written and directed by Bruce Beresford – has moved to the tropical rainforest of north Queensland.

Ms Ehle spoke there between lakes, freshly made-up for



Road work: A scene from the film, which is under production in north Queensland

the harrowing scene of the women's arrival at the camp, on the island of Sumatra, after a gruelling march through the jungle.

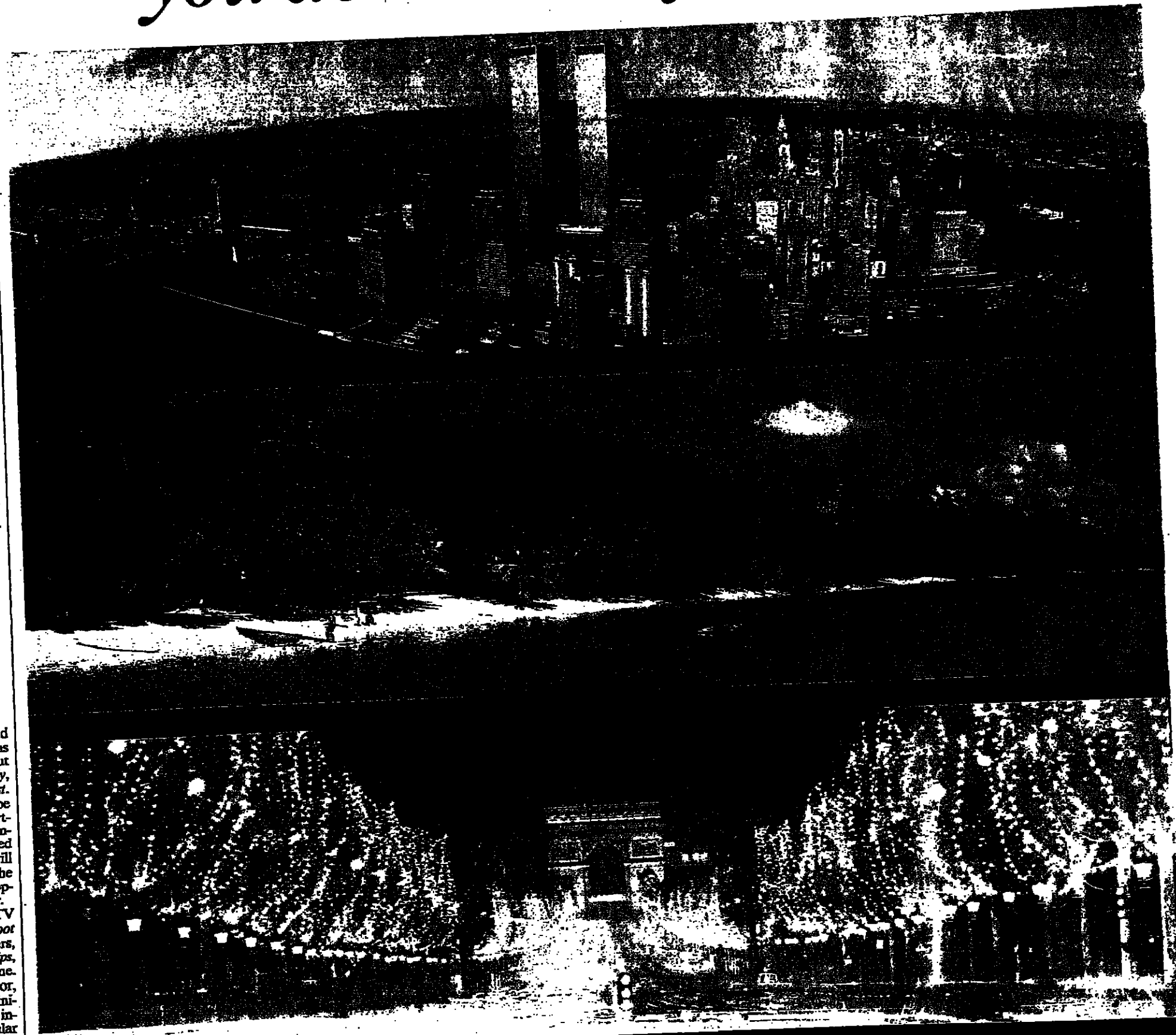
What had attracted her to Mr Beresford's script? "It's rare to come across a story like this... and it's even more rare to have an ensemble of such extraordinary female characters. It was the courage of these women

during their struggle to survive their horrific years of hunger, disease and starvation, their dignity and strength, that drew me to their story. It's fascinating to watch how each of these different characters reacts."

The music is likely to be as much a star of *Paradise Road* as any of the actors. The Glenn Close and Pauline Collins characters are based on two women

who mentally recalled, almost perfectly, 30 pieces of music, including scores by Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and Percy Grainger. Because there were no instruments, the choir became a "vocal orchestra": the women sang the music written for piano and orchestra. Many women died in the camp, but the scores that they wrote down survive today.

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international

Former Yugoslavia: Two unreleased reports show that the goals of the Dayton peace agreement look increasingly untenable

Refugees can never go home, says UN

SARAH HELM
Brussels.

Nine months after the Dayton peace accords, the United Nations has given up returning all Bosnian refugees to their homes, and accepted an ethnically cleansed Bosnia.

An unpublished report, obtained by the *Independent*, reveals that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has decided drastically to scale down the number of refugees it will help. In a surrender to the reality on the ground, the UNHCR says it will no longer attempt to return Bosnian refugees to areas where they would be a minority.

The report states that only refugees returning to areas where they would be in the majority can expect UN assistance, and it highlights 19 "priority" areas.

More than 2.4 million refugees fled Bosnia during the war and hundreds of thousands of Bosnians are "displaced" inside the country. As recently as March the UNHCR's objective was to return 870,000 this year.

Now that target has been reduced to 135,000.

The immediate effect will be that many of these people – Muslims, Croats and Bosnian Serbs – will never be able to return home. For example, the Muslim women who fled the Srebrenica massacre last July now know that they will receive no UN help should they wish to return to the town which now has a Serb majority. Only six days ago the international community pledged "never to forget" the women of Srebrenica.

The policy change is certain to further undermine the credibility of the United Nations in Bosnia, where it will face accusations that it is not only accepting the *de facto* ethnic division of Bosnia, but making the UN a party to the process.

The UNHCR report constitutes another nail in the coffin of the Dayton peace accord. Dayton envisaged a multi-ethnic Bosnia, in which freedom of movement would be secured for all ethnic groups. It aimed to create a climate in which all refugees would feel secure enough to return to their areas.



Reconstruction: A worker surveys the rebuilding of the Maslenica bridge in Croatia which will link the north-south coast road. The original bridge was destroyed in 1991 in the war with Serbia. The new bridge, which should be completed by November, will be the 13th longest wired bridge in the world. Photograph: Marko Biljak/Reuters

The international community was insistent that peace in Bosnia would not mean victory for "ethnic cleansing".

In the report, entitled "Priority areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina for reconstruction and return of displaced persons and refugees", the UN accepts that the return of refugees has "pro-

ceeded more slowly than was hoped for". Only 70,000 have returned to their homes since Dayton "and to date virtually no returns to minority areas have taken place."

The reports cite "freedom of movement and security concerns" as the main reason. This is an acknowledgement of the

failure of the American-led 1-For force, which is responsible for the military aspects of the peace deal, to get rid of road blocks and stop the use of threats and intimidation, which prevent refugees returning to areas where they are a minority.

The report says the reconstruction effort in Bosnia has

been so limited that it is impossible for most refugees to even consider returning, and the UNHCR calls for an extra \$160m (£103m) in aid, in addition to the \$6bn already agreed for reconstruction. New infrastructure built so far only meets a "small portion" of refugees' needs, the UNHCR says.

The UN's decision to rationalise its refugee effort may partly be due to pressure from Germany to speed up the return of more than 320,000 Bosnian refugees still on German soil. Germany, which received more Bosnian refugees than any other country, has been exerting mounting pressure on the UN

to find ways of removing them. On Monday, Bonn presented its own list of "priority areas" for return to a meeting of European Union foreign ministers in Brussels. But in another sign of discord in the West over Bosnia, the German "priority areas" were totally different from the UN "priority areas".

West warned against Bosnia withdrawal by end of year

DAVID USBORNE
New York

The peace process in Bosnia is making only sporadic progress and will take more than the one year originally envisioned by the parties to complete, according to a report by the international community's civilian envoy to Bosnia, Carl Bildt.

His upbeat report, which has been seen by the *Independent* and will

be submitted to the Security Council in New York this morning, serves notice to the Western powers that any hopes they had of disentangling themselves from Bosnia by the end of this year are unrealistic.

"I remain convinced that the goals of the [Dayton] Peace Agreement can be achieved," Mr Bildt writes. "It would, however, be naive to believe that this can be done fully in just one short year."

Western governments have yet to articulate what their continuing role would be in Bosnia, if and when the Nato peace-keeping force is withdrawn before the end of the year, as President Bill Clinton has urged.

Mr Bildt's warning comes as concern deepens about the continuing presence in Bosnia of the former Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic. He has been charged with war crimes and is theoretically

barred from participation from elections scheduled for September. But Mr Karadzic is believed still to wield overriding influence over the Serbian Democratic Party, the only important Bosnian Serb party.

The US special peace envoy, Richard Holbrooke, yesterday returned to the region to try to ensure Mr Karadzic's withdrawal from the political scene. If he fails, some diplomats believe military

action to remove him and bring him to trial at the War Crimes Tribunal may be the only option. Sources close to Mr Bildt say that he believes such a snafu may be the best solution.

The Bildt report, mostly written earlier this month, spells out areas in which parties on the ground are failing fully to implement the provisions of Dayton, such as on human rights protection, prisoner exchanges and the relocation of refugees.

On human rights, Mr Bildt warns that "the performance of the respective authorities can in no way be seen as satisfactory". Noting that ethnic harassment is tolerated and even encouraged, he concludes: "This causes the country to continue to drift apart in a development that is contrary to the declared aim of re-establishing a multi-ethnic society".

He similarly warns that all parties are continuing to detain prisoners in

contravention to the Dayton deal.

Other concerns include the lack of objectivity by the local media as well as the fact that, according to his count, at least 65 people who have been charged with war crimes are still at liberty in the country.

If no resolution is found for removing Mr Karadzic, the Security Council may reimpose economic sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs, and even against Serbia.

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Yeltsin meeting with Gore fails to dispel health fears

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

President Boris Yeltsin made his first public appearance for three weeks yesterday, holding a 45-minute meeting with the US Vice-President, Al Gore, at a health resort outside Moscow. An American reporter who witnessed the start of the meeting in the village of Barvika said Mr Yeltsin moved stiffly and appeared to be in some physical discomfort when seated with Mr Gore, but the Vice-President said the Russian leader seemed to be in good health.

"I think he is relaxing and getting some needed rest, but to me he looks good. On every score, President Yeltsin was actively engaged and seemed in very good shape to me," Mr Gore said after the meeting.

Despite these reassurances, there was no explanation of the extraordinary incident on Monday when, at the last minute, Mr Yeltsin postponed his meeting with Mr Gore for a day on the grounds that he had decided to take a holiday. Mr Yeltsin had two mild heart attacks last year, but his aides attributed his absence from public view after 26 June to nothing more than a cold and a need for rest after a lengthy

and hard-fought election campaign.

Some European leaders remain unconvinced that all is normal in Moscow. President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland said: "The fact that today it is not very clear who is in charge in the Kremlin is a problem, but one must express hope that President Yeltsin's problems are temporary and he will be the one to take matters into his hands."

Mr Yeltsin's retreat from the public gaze coincided with the breakdown of a truce in Chechnya and a new Russian

military onslaught against separatist rebels. However, to judge from an official Russian account of Mr Yeltsin's talks with Mr Gore, it seems improbable that Russian forces were capitalising on the President's poor health to act without his authority.

His press spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, said Mr Yeltsin had told Mr Gore that negotiations with the rebels formed the main direction of his policy, but that Russia still needed to protect itself against "bandit" formations. Russia's Interior Minister, Colonel Anatoly Kulikov, later

blamed the rebels for two trolleybus bomb attacks in Moscow last week which wounded 33 people. He said it was too soon to talk of pulling out Russian forces by 1 September, as agreed in Mr Yeltsin's pre-election truce with Chechen commanders.

Stary Atagi, Russia (Reuters) — The brother of the Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said yesterday that he and his family, including his mother, narrowly escaped death when Russian helicopters fired rockets into their home.

Residents said the house of Suleiman Yandarbiyev, 37, the guerrilla leader's younger brother, was one of five in the southern Chechen village of Stary Atagi hit by guided missiles on Monday evening. No one was killed.

"This is state terrorism," Suleiman Yandarbiyev said. When a trolleybus gets blown up in Moscow, it's a tragedy for Russia. When they bomb villages and kill civilians in Chechnya, it's the fight against terrorism. They just treat us like animals."

Suleiman Yandarbiyev said he was sure that the attack had been deliberate, with him and his family as targets, although he insisted that there were no armed guerrillas in Stary Atagi.



At last: President Yeltsin (left) face to face with Al Gore (centre) and Viktor Chernomyrdin. Photograph: AP

Juppé cracks down on Corsican crime

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

The French prime minister, Alain Juppé, flies to Corsica today for a two-day visit that is being presented in Paris as proof of the Gaullist-led government's determination to get to grips with the island's economic and security problems.

Administered as an integral part of France, Corsica has been wracked by violence for the past two decades, as anti-French separatism and organised crime have become increasingly interlinked. Two weeks ago, a car bomb explosion in the northern port city of Bastia killed one man – a known nationalist – and injured

15 others. It also shocked French opinion into realising how serious the law and order situation had become.

Now, after more than a year in office and repeated opposition criticism about inaction over Corsica, Mr Juppé is expected to announce a new twin-track strategy of tough law and order measures and economic assistance, designed to preempt a slide into clan rule.

The tone was set by Mr Juppé in a television interview 10 days ago, when he spoke of the need for "firmness" on law and order, and "imagination and boldness" on the economy. President Chirac reinforced the message in his Bastille Day interview, when, along with a

call for political dialogue, he demanded action against anyone with illegal weapons. "When people accuse the state of closing its eyes to what is going on," he said, "my response is that the state has to open its eyes... things can't go on as they are."

The initiative has seen the dismissal, after only five months in office, of the chief of the island's police, who has been replaced by a tough-minded Corsican, Demetrius Dragacci. His promotion, it was hoped, would bring action and raise depressed morale in the island's police and judiciary. Within three days of the appointment, two nationalists were imprisoned for illegal possession of firearms and three more arrested – the first re-

ported arrests for many months. While the law and order moves are seen in Paris and in non-nationalist quarters of Corsica as positive, there is widespread scepticism about the value of any economic measures Mr Juppé may announce.

Tourism, the island's main source of income, fell by more than 40 per cent in 1995, after a disastrous season punctuated by strikes, and is showing a further fall this year of about 15 per cent. The main economic measure is expected to be the conversion of the island to a tax-free zone. But officials say that while some adjustments may be made to tax rates linked to tourism, the high French rates of VAT will remain.

The knock-out spirit of a French summer

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

Do you remember the good old days of *Jeux sans Frontières* with their improbable costumes, slapstick comedy and disgraced Royals? Well, the French don't need to; this summer, as last summer, and practically every summer for the past 30 years and more, a good half of the country's television audience will be riveted to the screen each Wednesday night for two hours of watery fun beneath the floodlights.

A week ago, nearly 9 million people switched on for the first in this year's series of what goes by the name of *Intervilles*, knocking into a cocked hat all five competing programmes on all five competing channels. The arrival of *Intervilles* is now as reliable a harbinger of the summer holiday season as the sun, the sea and the southward-bound traffic jams.

It's almost a sociological phenomenon, said one of the brains behind the show, Fabrice Foucault. "It is one of the last expressions of *la France profonde*, in the best sense of the term." And he was not exaggerating. Fly then, poor Léon Zitrone, a veteran French television commentator who died in his Eighties last year. Zitrone's *métier* spanned the entire register of television from state funerals downwards. And what was he chiefly remembered, and loved, for? Being the first co-presenter of *Intervilles*, a kind of Gallic *Eddie Warne*.

The programme, *Intervilles*, pits 18 towns and cities against each other – all with claims to be resorts of various kinds – and lets local pride take over. The first matches are always between regional rivals, ensuring furious

A popular TV game show distils the essence of holiday fun, bulls and all

competition and vocal audience participation. Then the travelling begins. This year sees participation by such diverse places as the medieval city of Troyes, east of Paris, the giant port city of Marseille, the fashionable Riviera resort of Antibes, and the small southern seaside town of Port-Bacard.

Last year saw confrontations broadcast from Palavas les Flottes – the largely modern seaside resort of Montpellier – and from the landlocked southwestern wine centre of Cahors. The backdrops of a boat-filled modern marina and fish restaurants, compared with ancient fortress towers and hillside vineyards, could scarcely have been more different. But the fierce local passions, chorused by exuberant French holiday-makers, were the same.

Always broadcast live, *Intervilles* somehow distils into television form the collective French holiday experience: that unique period in the summer when the population has decamped to the seaside or the country, and everyone is wearing the sort of psychedelic Bermuda shorts they would not be seen dead in the rest of the year – everyone, that is, but the state President and Prime Minister whose shorts are a sober single colour. It's the time, in fact, when even the nation's Communist leader can be seen sipping at an oyster.

Wisely, the politicians know that *Intervilles* is not their terrain and leave the people to their games. Guy Lux, 77, who has coordinated the programmes since 1963, says the secret of the games is to keep

them simple. "Conveyor belts, a swimming pool, drawbridges, a show-ring, fireworks, some soap ... then good luck and let them get on with it." An attempt to introduce a winter version of *Intervilles* – on ice – for last Christmas, failed dismally. The games were too complicated, and the special summer holiday spirit just wasn't there.

Yet it may not be just the holiday spirit that makes *Intervilles* such a success, and has kept the contests going while they have flagged in Britain and colder lands. The programme has one added and vital element that north Europeans would sternly disapprove of, both in general and, in this year of "suspect" beef, in particular. This is the *vachette*, a bullock, no less, that is released into the

show-ring, as and when, to add the spice of unpredictability and a frisson of danger to the show.

Thus, it may not be sufficient for your team to have remained flawlessly upright along the ocean-wave conveyor, played a timely Joker, and rehearsed its slippery-pole-climbing-in-flippers technique to perfection. When the *vachette* comes barrelling out of its fastness, horns first, you have to take evasive action in a hurry – and keep all those hard-won plastic balls/flowers/fish in their buckets till you reach safety.

Mad cows or no, the typically Mediterranean and politically incorrect *vachette* is back this year, the star of *Intervilles* as ever. And the team from the southern city of Béziers will be banking on a small advantage. There is the only city taking part in the fun this year which has a bull-fighting tradition.



Horsing around: *Intervilles*, like *Jeux sans Frontières* (above), makes slapstick an art of its own

Photograph: BBC

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Century. Which we think you'll agree, adds up to a much healthier service.



SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Mexico's third strongest left-wing party is expected to be led by a pugnacious provincial leader who gained popularity by blockading state-owned oil wells and mobilising anti-government protests. Under Andres Lopez Obrador, the Democratic Revolutionary Party, or PRD, is expected to challenge President Ernesto Zedillo to speed the pace of democratic reform or face more unrest. Mr Lopez Obrador, from the oil-rich Gulf Coast state of Tabasco, held a commanding lead for the presidency of the 1.3 million-member left-wing party. It was founded in 1987 by an assortment of former communists, socialists and other left-wingers as well as several leaders of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, who broke away to protest corruption and repression. Mexico City – AP

The shooting of a Danish biker in Norway may be the latest incident in a turf war between Scandinavian bikers, police fear. Detectives said that Jan Krogh Jensen, 37, a member of the Bandidos motorcycle gang, was shot in the head near the city of Drammen late on Monday. In the past two years the Bandidos, a Danish offshoot of a Texas-based biker gang, have begun to threaten the California-based Hell's Angels' domination of the Nordic motorcycle fraternity, according to investigators. Oslo – Reuters

Burma rejected calls for an independent autopsy on an unofficial envoy for several European countries who died in prison last month. The Burmese embassy in Jakarta said that James Nichols died in June due to a stroke and heart attack. Mr Nichols, a close friend of the democracy leader, Aung San Sou Kyi, was arrested in April and in May was jailed for three years for operating home telephones and fax machines without permission. His death in custody angered European governments which have called for an independent autopsy, as well as sanctions against Burma. Jakarta – Reuters

Nineteen people have been executed for theft of telecommunication lines since China's "Strike Hard" anti-crime campaign began in April. Theft of the lines for sale as scrap has seriously disrupted the national system, the *Legal Daily* said. Between January and June, there were 1,064 cases that caused 33 million yuan (\$4m) in losses, it said. Beijing – AP

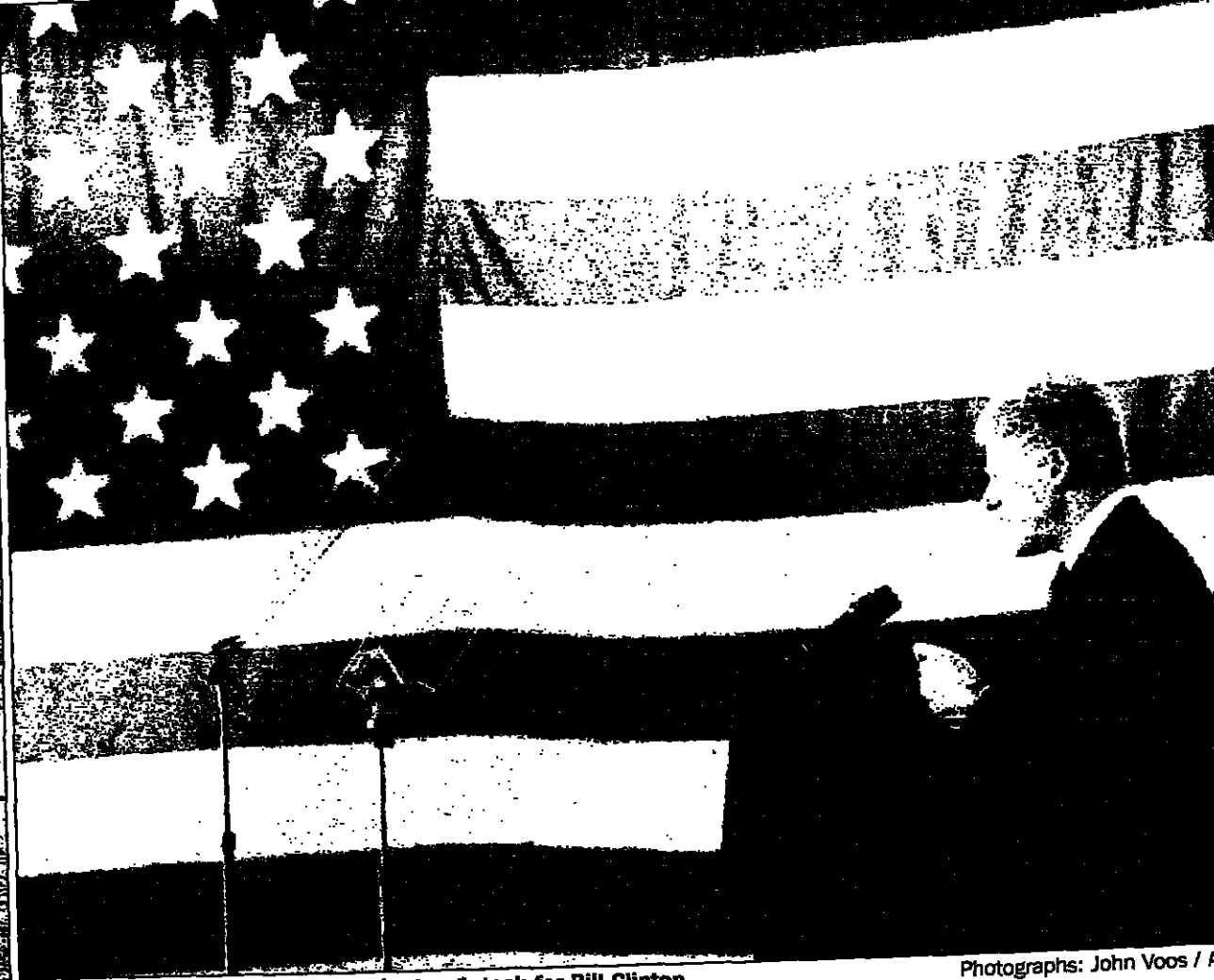
Five men known as "the tunnel gangsters" were convicted of staging one of Germany's cleverest bank robberies and jailed for terms ranging from six to 13 years. The three Syrians, a Lebanese and a German were accused of the robbery last year of about 16.3m marks (\$11.2m) from a Berlin bank. Holding 16 hostages, they demanded a car and a helicopter. But when police stormed the building 17 hours later, they found the robbers had escaped through an 250ft-tunnel they had dug during the preceding 18 months. Berlin – AP

A car bomb injured the Ukrainian Prime Minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, in what officials described as the first high-level assassination attempt in the country's modern history. There were no substantial injuries in the blast, which occurred in northern Kiev as the prime minister was on his way to the airport. Mr Lazarenko was treated for a shoulder injury. There was no public claim of responsibility. Kiev – AP

Germany's wunderkind entrepreneur has been cleared of accusations that he mishandled funds and made false promises to companies who hired him as their agent for Asia. The Bielefeld prosecutor's office said its two-week probe uncovered no evidence to support the allegations against Lars Windhorst, 19, by the former manager of his Hong Kong office. Once dubbed Germany's Bill Gates, the fresh-faced, fast-talking teenager has won the hearts of many Germans – including Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Bielefeld – AP

A man dressed in cowboy gear was arrested as he galloped a stolen horse up a Singapore freeway at midnight, the *Singapore Straits Times* reported. The newspaper quoted the 32-year-old unemployed man, who tried to escape police by galloping up the Pan Island Expressway, as telling them the horse was his and he was heading for neighbouring Malaysia. However, the paper said the unnamed man had stolen the horse from the Singapore Polo Club, from which he had been fired two months ago. Singapore – Reuters

CUBA TRADE ROW



Driven men: In the Cuban countryside, it often proves impossible to get into first gear. Steering Cuban policy, has proved a tough task for Bill Clinton

Photographs: John Voos / AP

Clinton hedges his electoral bets

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

In a bid to appease both the politically potent Cuban-American lobby in the United States and Washington's outraged allies in Canada and Europe, President Bill Clinton yesterday allowed a controversial Cuban sanctions law to go ahead, but imposed a six-month delay on its most bitterly contested provision.

Just hours before last night's deadline, administration officials said the President would go ahead with the Helms-Burton Act punishing foreigners who do business with Cuba, but place a moratorium until next February on the filing of lawsuits in US federal courts by American citizens and

corporations seeking damages for properties confiscated by the Castro regime.

The move is a carefully crafted compromise, designed to keep favour with the rabidly anti-Castro Cuban American vote in key election states like Florida and New Jersey – yet avoid the threat of retaliatory sanctions from the European Union against US citizens and companies, and which could trigger a bruising transatlantic trade conflict.

Mr Clinton has, in effect, put off a decision until well after the November election. In theory, he could order a further such moratorium next January, that would keep cases out of the courts until August 1997 or beyond. In the meantime, the administration will try to

persuade its sceptical allies to introduce tougher anti-Cuban measures of their own.

The decision affects the so-called Title III of Helms-Burton, involving almost 6,000 properties on the island which were owned before 1959 by American companies and individuals, as well as the lost assets of native Cubans who fled and subsequently became Americans, which were confiscated by the Castro regime.

Many of these properties and factories are now being operated by the 250 joint ventures set up by foreign companies in Cuba. At least 100 non-American foreign companies are said to be involved. All could be liable to suits in American courts – and rightly so, according to supporters of the measure, who

accuse the offending investors in Cuba of cynically striking deals with Cuba to boost profits.

So, too, argues the Republican presidential challenger this autumn, Mr Clinton's "indecision until the last moment" proved once again he was "rudderless when standing up for American principles around the world".

Bob Dole said yesterday. Allowing American citizens the right to use

American courts was "the right thing to do".

However, opponents (including most of the US diplomats obliged to go through the motions of defending Helms-Burton to their angry foreign counterparts) say the measure invites a torrent of lawsuits that will clog US courts and exacerbate relations with America's trading partners.

Last week saw an outcry when the separate Title IV provision of Helms-Burton, denying US entry visas to executives of foreign companies which took over those assets, was activated against seven board members of the Canadian mining company Sherritt International, two of them prominent Britons. Abroad, the move was seen as an

unjustified and illegal extra-territorial use of American law against third countries.

Officials here acknowledge that even yesterday's judgement of Solomon by the White House is unlikely to prevent formal action against the measure in both the World Trade Organisation and Nafta, the North American Free Trade Agreement linking the US, Canada and Mexico.

For its part, Cuba has long said it is ready to reach a settlement of the estimated \$2bn (£1.3bn) of lost property claims from US citizens – but only as part of an overall agreement between Washington and Havana. But Washington insists that this must wait until Cuba has pushed through sweeping political and economic reform.

EU may retaliate to defend interests

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent
SARAH HELM
Brussels

The Government responded with measured irritation to President Bill Clinton's decision to tighten sanctions on international companies trading with Cuba. Ministers were said to feel strongly about the "total unacceptability of extra-territorial legislation" by a Foreign Office source, although Mr Clinton's decision had been expected.

European Union foreign ministers were united in opposition to the move at their meeting on Monday, when they agreed to consider counter-measures. The EU has warned the US that it will retaliate swiftly and forcefully should its trade interests be placed at risk by the Helms-Burton Act.

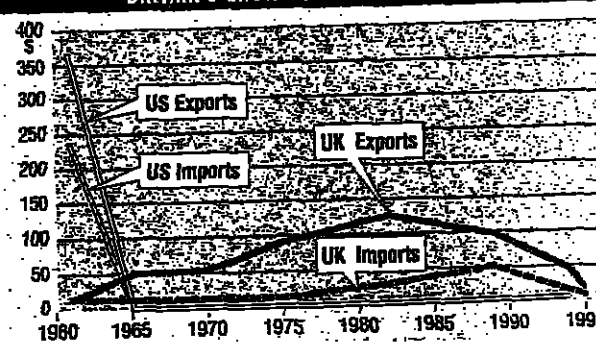
The retaliatory measures include blocking free travel of US business executives to Europe, accelerating an action against the US at the World Trade Organization, guardian of global free trade laws, and freezing US assets in Europe. Individual EU countries could impose visa restrictions on US business travellers at short notice.

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "I don't think any of these things move particularly quickly, but then neither do the provisions of the Helms-Burton Act."

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, responded angrily last week to the effect of earlier provisions of the Helms-Burton Act, which barred British businessmen Rupert Pennant-Rea and Sir Patrick Sheehy from the US because they were directors of a Canadian company which traded with Cuba. Mr Lang said he would press the US to "re-scind this senseless measure before it comes into effect".

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, insisted this week that France would respond "in kind" should the US carry out its threat.

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EU may retaliate to defend interests

السبيل الى الحرية

THE INDEPENDENT

Summer of sport

Wednesday 17 July 1996

The Olympic dream is still surviving the marketing men – just, says Mike Rowbottom in Atlanta

A Games of the modern era

About the size of the centennial modern Olympics, at any rate, there can be no doubt. The Games which open in this heaving, humid city on Friday night will be the largest ever, involving a record number of 197 nations, more than 10,000 competitors, 2 million spectators and a projected global television audience of 4 billion.

But the nature of these Games – slogan: "Atlanta – Come Celebrate Our Dream" – is less certain. What is the dream? What should it be?

Al Oerter has a very clear idea of what the modern Olympics should be about. Recalling his historic feat of winning four successive discus titles between 1956 and 1968, the American who was known as the Man With The Golden Arm says: "I can remember every second of every competitive day while I was in the Olympic Games. The Games are not competition against people. It's not a medal count. It's truly a test of self."

That is a kernel of idealism which the modern Games' founding father, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, would have recognised and applauded.

On the streets and boulevards of Atlanta, however, a poster campaign by the shoe manufacturer Nike offers graphic evidence of a different operating philosophy.

"You don't win silver. You lose gold," reads one poster. "If you are not here to win you're a tourist," goes another. And, superimposed on a picture of a Chinese competitor, a third message proclaims: "If I'm saying I'm just here to compete, blame my interpreter."

For the modern athlete, we are given to understand, the only consideration is victory, and its commercial consequences.

The attitude has its quintessential expression in the Dream Team – US basketball players drawn from the professional ranks of the NBA. In Barcelona four years ago, they won all their games by an average of more than 40 points. More of the same on home ground is confidently predicted.

The Dream Team are an advertiser's dream. A certain pull. Just like the Olympics themselves, in fact.

It is television money which underpins the financial structure of the Olympics, and so confident are NBC, the American broadcasters who have secured network coverage of the 1996 Games, that they have agreed similar deals through to the 2008 Olympics at a total cost of \$3.55bn.

The financial attraction of the Olympics has been vividly described by the NBC president, Dick Ebersol. Advertisers, he believes, love the Games because it guarantees all members of the family gathered around the television – just like they did in the old days.

"They're getting everybody," Ebersol said. "I look on the Olympics as the last family event. It is like this magnificent super-series that renews itself every two years with a totally different cast of characters



and some of the best unscripted drama ever written in history."

Global television rights for the 1996 Games have contributed \$900m towards a total cost of \$1.7bn. In order to make up the balance, according to the official newsletter, the Games organisers have set "new records and standards" in the most rapidly expanding Olympic event – marketing.

Their efforts have yielded \$800m as the Olympic connection has been made with everything from candy bars to television game shows.

Atlanta's organisers have been criticised for what has been seen as rampant commercialism. The ethos is embodied in the Centennial Olympic Park at the city centre, a gathering place where all the

major sponsors of the Games display their wares.

Budweiser, General Motors, Swatch, and of course Coca-Cola, for whom Atlanta is home base, are among a gaudy panoply of corporate tents and pavilions which caused even the president of the US Olympic Committee, LeRoy Walker, to comment this week: "Frankly, I think it's an overkill."

But that is perhaps unfair to a host city whose Olympic bid has been based upon brass and energetic self-promotion. The local term for the whole process is "boosterism". Atlanta does not have natural resources, it does not have industrial resources. What it does have is the world's largest soft drink, a television company in CNN which has reached throughout the world, and apparently in-

exhaustible belief in its own ability to do business.

That energy, and the implicit financial underwriting that Coca-Cola could provide, are the reason the Games came to Atlanta in Georgia in its centennial year rather than returning to the city where it came into being in 1896, Athens.

Despite all the expressions of confidence, however, there is an underlying tension about these Games. Five minutes' drive away from the skyscrapered city centre, one can pass through streets where the poverty is obvious. The last census of the city, in 1990, indicated that 43 per cent of the child population was living below the poverty line, and there have been protests about the huge amounts of money being spent on housing a global sport-

ing event rather than housing the local population.

This anger was probably behind the incident on 12 May when unknown arsonists burned down the home of Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone With The Wind*, the novel which chronicles the burning of Atlanta in the Civil War and which many black people regard as a celebration of the era of slavery.

The house had been restored in the hope of raising revenue from visitors to the Games.

Against this uneasy background, the IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch opened his organisation's 105th session at the weekend.

But the keynote to his speech was the importance of continuing the battle against doping abuse by competitors. "Doping," he said, "leads to physical and

moral death." If that battle has been fought with less than 100 per cent commitment by the IOC – which shied away from investing any of its vast funds in an international programme of out-of-competition testing, passing the responsibility instead to national federations – it is nevertheless the crucial issue for the future of the Games.

Arguments about the purity of motive among competitors – whether they take part for the love of it, or as a calculated means of enhancing their personal wealth – will continue. It is sometimes forgotten that, despite de Coubertin's idealistic revival programme of the late 19th century, the Ancient Games were banned by Theodosius the Great in AD393 after a long sequence of boycotts between rival

states, and cases of bribery. Competitors at the Ancient Games spent the Olympic year in training camps, and winners were rewarded with life pensions and, for all we know, a new chariot every year from their local dealer.

But even the voice of today's commercial realpolitik, Mr Ebersol, recognises that there is something intangibly precious about the Olympics, albeit that he refers to it as a commodity: "There is an idealism attached to the Olympics that is just not available anywhere else."

If the goose that lays the golden eggs is not to expire, that idealism has to remain as a possibility. And where individual cheating with drugs prevents fair competition, idealism cannot survive.

The latest spectrometer tech-

nology enables the testing laboratories to gain a more detailed picture of those who have cheated by taking performance-enhancing steroids. But there are still no reliable tests to catch out those who take the more sophisticated substances which have the same effect, naturally occurring substances such as human growth hormone, or who increase aerobic capacity by replenishing themselves with a late boost of their own, stored, oxygen-rich blood.

Rather than fretting over whether beach volleyball should be considered an Olympic sport, the sporting world needs to concentrate its energies on the issue of doping. In the meantime the world waits and hopes that there is enough of the oxygen of true sporting idealism to keep the Olympic body alive.

Palmer dismisses drugs claims

The man in charge of Britain's Olympic team, Dick Palmer, yesterday dismissed a claim that 75 per cent of athletes about to compete in Atlanta had used performance-enhancing drugs, writes Mike Rowbottom.

Palmer, general secretary of the British Olympic Association, said there was "no evidence" to support the allegations – made in last night's *Panorama* programme on BBC television – by Mike Turner, the former British Olympic team doctor.

Turner, until recently deputy director of medical services at the British Olympic Association, said on the programme: "If you're talking about track and field, you're talking about a situation where the percentage may be 75 or above of Olympic athletes in Atlanta will have taken some kind of performance-enhancing drug."

He also criticised the new high-tech testing equipment installed in Atlanta. Testing urine in competition, by and large, is a waste of time, he said. "People are using growth hormone, they're using blood doping, both of which are undetectable in competition urine testing," Turner added that athletes who cheat can use anabolic steroids during the off-season without being caught. "It's only the stupid or totally naive who are going to get caught in Atlanta," he said.

The BBC had ignored a threat from the British Athletic Federation to seek an injunction if a transcript of the programme were not delivered to them.

But the BAF spokesman, Tony Ward, said yesterday he understood British athletes were not the subject of the main allegations. "It is also my understanding that we come in for a certain

amount of credit for our tough testing programme," Ward said.

Meanwhile the Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco, suspended after a positive drugs test, still has a chance of competing to Atlanta. The sprinter, who has struggled with his form in recent seasons, is reported to have tested positive for the steroid stanozolol and faces a possible four-year ban pending an independent hearing this week.

"His lawyers have told me that he is suspended from competition," the Australian team chief, John Coates, said yesterday. "But do I allow him to take his place in the [Olympic] village? I have an open mind on that matter."

A second athlete planning to compete in the Games, the Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua, is also facing a three-month ban after testing positive for ephedrine. Iran has

become the latest country embroiled in pre-Games drugs controversy, dropping two members of the judo team and a weightlifter from their squad for Atlanta, it was reported.

The daily newspaper *Abnar* said the judokas Abbas Abdi and Mohammad Reza Tolouei and the weightlifter Shaheen Nassimnia were withdrawn from the Iranian squad after they tested positive for unspecified banned substances. This was the second doping scandal in Iran's Olympic team which expelled two Greco-Roman wrestlers in April for similar violations.

It leaves 18 athletes in the squad, including the target shooter Lida Farman, Iran's first woman participant in the Olympic games since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Polly Toynbee, main paper, page 15



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Audi

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Hidden Personality

To be precise, in Dardanelle, Arkansas: a town of 3,000 inhabitants, where his mom, Lou, and dad, Jim, now run a grocery store, and where he still has a home, along with others in Tennessee and California.

And then there is the noise. I'm quite fond of loud noise. There is nothing to beat the pressure on the sternum from a heavy jet fighter taking off with after-burn. But grand prix cars make a falsetto, searing whine, rather like a high-speed circular saw biting into thin wood

BEING THERE

Damon Hill was not the only one to be disappointed at Silverstone. Chris Peachment found himself longing for the good old days of Formula One

My interest in grand prix racing began to decline a long time ago. The disaffection began sometime when the late Fifties were becoming the early Sixties. I was about eight or nine years old, and happened to see some old film footage of Fangio duelling with Ascari. They were big men, with creased faces and beer bellies, and they raced in leather flying helmets, polo shirts with bare forearms and string-backed gloves to stop their palms blistering on the big wooden steering wheel. But more to the point, the cars had cutaway sides to the cockpits, so you could see them wrestling with a four-wheel drift.

By the Sixties, the drivers were beginning to look like adulated pop stars, and were invisible behind their helmets and the high sides of their increasingly streamlined cars. I was still a fan, and throughout the Sixties and Seventies could list all the technical specifications of each team. But every so often another development would put me off racing just a little bit more. There was the dreadful moment when the teams stopped painting their cars in their national colours, and started plastering advertising all over them. Ferrari are an honourable exception and one of the reasons they retain my support is because of their distinctive shade of red, with that hint of blue in it. Lotus went beyond the pale when they painted the whole car the colour of a cigarette packet to please their main sponsor. Now everybody does it.

I went off it some more when Jim Clark was killed, and then even more when the cars started sprouting wings all over them for aerodynamic reasons. I was pleased when the cars became strong in the Eighties, thanks to Kevlar, and there were fewer injuries. But my disaffection returned when Senna used this advantage to turn racing into a contact sport. The last grand prix that I watched live was in Monaco some four years ago, and after that dreary procession, I took to just checking up occasionally on the edited highlights on television.

Nothing at Silverstone on Sunday is likely to make me a born-again fan. My first trip to Silverstone was with my father in the Sixties, when it was



Looking the other way: A lone spectator turns his back on the Silverstone action. The only decent view of the race was from the giant-screen televisions around the track

Photograph: Peter Jay

a rather cheerless airfield circuit with straw bales as crash barriers and nothing much else between the crowd and the cars. But at least you could see much of the race from any vantage point. And the long straights meant that overtaking was eventful. The track nowadays has had some kinks inserted into the longer straights and grandstands put up at all the principal corners. Between these stands are long earth mounds for hot polio.

After dire warnings from the police about a four-hour wait to get into the car parks, I duly arrived at about 10 in the morning and took my place in the queue. After only an hour I had inched forward to the front and found a spot in the car park. Ever optimistic, I climbed up the back of one of the dusty mounds near Luffield only to be greeted by a sight rather like the famous film scene where 6,000 Zulus suddenly appear over the horizon. All the way down the trackside slope were close-packed terraced ranks of spectators, all sitting in their aluminium seats, all wearing baseball caps, and all propping their feet on ice-cream boxes. They looked like they had been exercising their territorial rights all night. I had come ill-equipped and rather too late in the day. Still, by standing at the back,

one had a reasonable view of the bend.

The band played the National Anthem. Everybody remained seated. Then at two o'clock the race started and everyone stood up. Bang went my view. By dint of some fearsome elbow work, I managed to catch the first group of cars as they went past. Villeneuve had clearly made a burnstorming start and was a good couple of seconds out front, with Damon Hill trailing in fourth position. The crowd looked mournful. By the second lap, Villeneuve was increasing his lead and Hill was getting nowhere.

I climbed up the back of one of the dusty mounds near Luffield only to be greeted by a sight rather like the famous film scene where 6,000 Zulus suddenly appear over the horizon

It was announced on the third lap that Schumacher's Ferrari had fallen out of the race with mechanical trouble. A mild ripple of applause broke out among a small group to my left. No doubt there will be leading articles about deplorable outbreaks of racism among the fans, but from where I was sitting I couldn't see anyone goose-stepping or giving stiff-armed salutes. I suspect that this

group of fans would have applauded if any of Damon Hill's main rivals had fallen by the wayside.

And then the second Ferrari went by, trailing a huge plume of oil smoke behind it. The commentator said something about "the fur will be flying back in Maranello tonight". I tried to imagine Signor Agnelli clawing at some poor fur-clad Italian mechanic but couldn't picture it somehow. A much more likely fantasy would be a few menacing gestures, a whispered instruction to his consigliere, and then half a dozen engineers being found sleeping with the fishes.

I hate to say this, but all the cars really do look alike. If they were painted in the same colours, you could not tell them apart from 30 yards. They all have the same upturned nose, with a shovel underneath, which they tell us is for the aerodynamic downforce. But aerodynamics is a voodoo science, and just because something happens to work doesn't mean anyone can explain why. It's just a matter of fashion. Next year the noses will probably all tilt downwards, and the year after that they will all have small plastic windmills on them, all in favour

spectacle, they should consider banning any aerodynamic equipment, and restore some of the long straights to the track.

I climbed down the mound and decided to walk around the course, popping up at each successive mound that I came to. The least populated areas were in the middle of the straights. This is not surprising because each car, as it passes, is in the line of vision for about three-quarters of a second. And you get tennis spectator's neck from swivelling each time they pass.

Many of the spectators at the back ranks had simply turned away from the track and were watching the race on the giant screens which relayed the TV images. I asked one man why.

"You get a better overview of the race," he said. "And I'm really just here for the atmosphere."

Atmosphere you certainly do get. Breathe in while next to the track and you inhale the heady fumes of burnt petrol. Breathe in from the other direction and you get a nose full of fried burger and chip fat. Both can be sickening.

And then there is the noise. I'm quite fond of loud noise. There is nothing to beat the pressure on the sternum from a heavy jet fighter taking off with after-burn. But grand prix cars make a falsetto,

searing whine, rather like a high-speed circular saw biting into thin wood. It makes the ear drums tingle at first. Later they stop tingling, largely because you have gone partially deaf. People were stuffing wax plugs in their ears, but I prefer my sensory experiences undisturbed. I still had a headache the next day.

It was not an exciting race, or at least I don't think it was, to judge by the little bits of action I managed to see. Nowhere is it possible to get the larger picture of what was going on. A dull race, driven by dull people, in dull cars. Actually, I was secretly pleased that Villeneuve won, with Berger second, though the rest of the forlorn crowd didn't seem to give a toss either way. Villeneuve is his own man, and Berger is old enough to have lived through raunchier times.

I shan't go again for a while, but this isn't the end of my slowly fading love affair with Formula One. I shall keep following it in a desultory manner. Along with mountaineering and bull fighting, grand prix racing can be called a sport, making all other sports look like mere hobbies. And I shall persist with it because, like a long marriage, one doesn't divorce just because of the odd bad patch.

Corruption puts Russia's hockey party on ice

In the turbulent world of post-Soviet Russian sport, it seems what matters most is not whether you win or lose, but how much dirtier than your opponent you can play the game. What was once a disciplined, State-run bureaucracy has become big business for those sports lucky enough to attract Western money in the form of multi-million dollar transfer fees and sponsorship deals. But sports clubs are finding the cost of doing business in Russia is counted not in dollars and cents but in murder, kidnapping, extortion and corruption.

Ice hockey led the headlong plunge into capitalism in the early Nineties as its top players were lured up by wealthy North American clubs. The Soviets had been established as the Winter Olympic giants in ice hockey since they won their first medal - gold - in the sport in 1956, and they collected six more golds, a silver and a bronze in the next eight Games. In 1992, the Unified Team kept up the sporting tradition in claiming gold but two years later at Lillehammer the signs of a disintegrated power in ice hockey were obvious as the now separated

"Unified" countries failed to feature in the medals.

Ice hockey is a showcase of how money has turned Russian sport into a battlefield. Last Friday Vladimir Bogach, the business manager of the Central Army Sports Club team, was gunned down by three hitmen while playing tennis at the club's courts. The murder was the latest round of a series of high-profile corruption scandals which have centred around the club, which was once one of the Soviet Union's most successful sports organisations by virtue of its ability to take its pick of young sportsmen conscripted into the army for a compulsory two years. Last year, a public row between two rival club presidents, Vladimir Petrov and Valentin Sych, revealed millions of dollars of the club's money had disappeared into Swiss bank accounts instead of being invested in bringing on young talent.

This year, CSKA sacked Vladimir Tikhonov, the coach who had led the army club to 12 consecutive national championships and the Russian national team to four Olympic golds and eight world titles. Tikhonov, a full army Colonel, was eclipsed by the

SPORT IN ANOTHER COUNTRY

Political upheaval in the former USSR has a sporting cost, says Owen Matthews

mass movement of players to the West and by the withering of the once all-powerful and highly politicised sport bureaucracy in which he was a big player. Tikhonov, who acknowledged millions of dollars in transfer fees received by CSKA had gone missing because of "mafia infiltration" of the club, was sacked by order of the then Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who has himself been accused of corruption and in turn was ousted, along with other Kremlin hardliners, in early July.

Not even lucrative playing contracts in North America have saved Russian players from the long arm of Russian organised crime. At least three Russian NHL players have been targets of extortion attempts from Russian gangs, a US Senate hearing committee was told in May. Alexander Mogilyov of the Vancouver Canucks was threatened by Sergei Fomichev, a former associate who helped Mogilyov to defect in 1989, who said he would injure the 26-year-old star and end his career. Fomichev was arrested in the US and is in jail on second-degree corruption charges.

The US Senate heard evidence from a Russian mafia witness that another top player, Alexei Zhitnik of the Buffalo Sabres, had also been threatened when he played in Los Angeles but, unlike Mogilyov, did not go to the police. "Instead, he went to a more powerful criminal group to take care of the problem for him," said the witness, who is at present serving time in US prison. "Which I understand they did."

There is strong evidence that corruption and embezzlement are jeopardising the future of Russian hockey.

When communism fell, the system was stocked with two generations of players. Now, after an exodus of stars, the backlog is gone, and the flow is down to the incoming juniors, of whom only a handful a year will play for the American National Hockey League. No one seems to know where the estimated \$12m in transfer money for the first flood of players has vanished; it has certainly not gone into supporting programmes for young players.

Only nationally, when the dozen top Russian NHL players come temporarily back into the fold, is the old magic revived. The 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, will see top professionals playing in the Olympics for the first time, following basketball's Dream Team formula. But today's Russian players are all products of the Soviet training system, nurtured and sponsored from a young age by the state. In five years many of them will be retired, and despite the millions of dollars poured into Russian hockey over the last six years, there may simply not be a new generation of players to continue Russia's once-proud tradition.

SPORTING VERNACULAR

No 6 BOGEY

Every professional golfer fears a bogey, even if for many amateurs he would be a welcome companion on the course. These days that hardly counts as a linguistic ambiguity, just a difference of opinion about the desirability of being only one stroke over when you hole out. But if you look at the history of the word, you see that it provides a perfect example of how malleable sporting terms are when a game is still being codified.

Originally "bogey" referred to what would now be universally known as "par" (a term borrowed from the Stock Exchange) - that is, the scratch score for each hole, against which players test themselves.

According to an account quoted in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, utterly convincing in its period detail, if nothing else, the term originated in 1890, when Dr Thos Browne RN, the honorary secretary of Great Yarmouth Club, was playing a round against a Major Wellman (an inter-service fixture, obviously). Wellman, unfamiliar

with the relative novelty of playing against the course and finding that he was consistently behind, declared that his invisible opponent was "a regular bogey-man", a reference to a popular music hall song of the time.

The idea stuck in Great Yarmouth and then spread, along with the innovation of Bogey tournaments, in which, effectively, one played against a ghostly, perfect player.

These days, as every golfer knows, a bogey describes a score of one over par, an American deviation from the British original, which has its explanation in new technology rather than transatlantic cussedness.

When the new rubber golf ball was invented in 1898 scores established for the gutta-percha ball became rather easier to match. While the British kept the word bogey, the Americans switched to "par" for course standard, retaining bogey for the old expectation - as often as not one over par.

Thomas Sutcliffe

4 the cricket page

Tufnell's name is now firmly in The Frame

Last weekend was not the best time to be a cricket fan. The Benson & Hedges Cup Final marks the middle of the season and it was hardly high noon. An occasion that exists only in order to provide excitement succumbed to the prevailing mood of the Test series against India - a curious flatness. Even the ICC meeting, which usually supplies a few sparks, ended in a no-result.

Three days later, things are looking up. We have a riveting contest between England and Pakistan to follow, and that's just the court case. The Test series, starting at Lord's a week tomorrow, promises almost as much. Pakistan are more gifted than England but more volatile. They have a unique ability to be very good (drawing a series in the West Indies in the days when everybody else used to lose) and very bad (losing a Test in Zimbabwe). At William Hill, you can get odds of 5-2 on Pakistan to win at Lord's, an offer which looks too good to refuse.

Though you might want to see

whom England pick before parting with your money, Mike Atherton gave an interview to the *Sunday Times* last week and said two very interesting things. The first was that he now trusts his fellow selectors so much that he would be prepared to do things the Australian way and not be one of them. "I would be happy not turning up at the meetings," Atherton said, "because I know the selections would be the right ones." This may be the greatest statement of faith ever made in any England selection panel. Coming a month after Raymond Illingworth put Atherton in a tricky position by revealing some of his doubts about individual players, it is, if nothing else, highly generous.

The second concerned an individual Atherton was thought to have doubts about. "I have never had problems with individuals," he said. "Only this week Geoff Boycott said on TV that Phil Tufnell is not in the side because I don't want him. But I have never spoken out at selection meetings against a player for any-

thing other than cricketing reasons. If we pick awkward people, it's up to me to handle them. Part of the game is to have 11 characters within the team."

This struck me as astute, broad-minded and magnanimous - the sort of quote the average sportsman comes out with about once in a career. But it struck one of my colleagues as disingenuous. He, along with a few other cricket writers, had gained the distinct impression 18 months ago that Atherton was so fed up with Tufnell in Australia that he didn't want to have to deal with him again, at least on tour.

And Tufnell hasn't played for England since. He was in the squad for the sixth Test against the West Indies last summer but not in the final XI. "We've had a lot of problems



TIM DE LISLE

with Tufnell over the years," Illingworth said, with his usual reckless candour. "If he came in and did well, we could put ourselves in an invidious position. If we weren't going to take him on tour, it didn't make sense to play him in England."

Or, as Peter Haylor of the *Mail on Sunday* helpfully translated: "We couldn't risk playing Tufnell in case he won the match, and forced us to pick him again."

Now, following Min Patel's tidy but anodyne showing against the Indians (57 overs, one wicket), Tufnell is being touted again. In Monday's *Daily Express*, John Emburey - a man respected throughout in the game, and the one Illingworth wanted as England coach - said that Tufnell

should be considered seriously for the series against Pakistan. Well, he would, wouldn't he, you may say, after all those years of wheeling away in tandem for Middlesex. But over the years Emburey has been one of Tufnell's sternest critics.

Emburey says Tufnell has changed. It had "done him the world of good" having to take on the role of senior spinner at Middlesex when Emburey himself left. "He's 30 now, married and more at ease with himself."

In short, Emburey was saying that Tufnell had matured. This is a word with magical powers in selection committees. Why it should be so is not clear. Perhaps it's a subconscious attempt to make up for the fact that playing a game all day long is not a very grown-up thing to do.

With the next Test taking place on his home ground, Tufnell's name is now firmly in that mysterious place they call The Frame. You could argue that he hasn't set the County Championship alight this year, but he seems to have bowled consistently well

Resurgent Surrey surprise sceptics

THE WEEK AHEAD

This time last year, Surrey were bottom of the County Championship, drowning in the depths of another season in which those who had predicted great things from their unquestionably talented players again felt badly let down.

Many former friends passed them by when prospects were assessed this year, despairing of their ever fulfilling their potential.

They might regret their lack of faith now. This July finds Surrey in full sail, fourth in the Championship, top of the AXA Equity & Law League and through to the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy, with a home tie to come. Nine games of the last 11 have been won, the last enabling them gleefully to displace Middlesex at the summit of the Sunday competition.

Today they begin a four-day Championship match against Sussex at Guildford, where victory would add considerably to the view that they can make a realistic stab at the Britannic Assurance prize money as well.

One can still cast doubt on their credentials in the absence of an experienced spin bowler, but in an open tide contest they do not look significantly under-resourced. Indeed, that blenish apart, they look well equipped, particularly in the batting, which was always likely to be the case, but also in the bowling, where Martin Dicknell, who missed half of last season, is again performing sterling service, where Chris Lewis appears a fast bowler reborn and where Brendon Julian is redeeming himself after a disappointing start.

Last time out in the Championship, Dicknell had nine wickets, Julian seven, as Middlesex succumbed to their neighbours for the first time in 10 years.

Pre-season, Dave Gilbert, another in the wave of Australian imports among county coaches, promised "a Surrey side unrecognisable from the past", one that would not wilt under pressure. Judgement on that must be reserved as yet, but optimism at this stage is entirely reasonable.

Opponents Sussex, having crept up to seventh place, are also contenders, at least on paper, though the gap between themselves and leaders Kent stands at 37 points, compared with Surrey's 21.

Alan Wells, the captain, has been extolling the potential of his young all-rounder Danny Law; 20 this week, who is beginning to look a useful swing bowler. But Sussex seem too thin in the batting to progress much further, with Wells the only batsman even to reach 500 first-class runs. And doubt remains over the fast bowler Ed Giddins, reported to be awaiting judgement over a failed dope test.

Kent, who entertain the Pakistanis at Canterbury starting on Saturday, will probably lose their lead again as Yorkshire seek to re-establish themselves as the team to beat by defeating Hampshire at Harrogate commencing tomorrow.

In terms of sheer talent, there is no dispute that Yorkshire possess an attractive hand, one quite possibly awash with future England players in the shape of Tony McGrath, Michael Vaughan and, perhaps, Chris Silverwood, not to mention Alex Morris, who will captain England Under-19s in one-day games against New Zealand tomorrow and Saturday, at Chester-le-Street and Nottingham.

The question mark against Yorkshire is posed by the coming loss of Michael Bevan, whose 1,100 runs have been the mainstay of their challenge. Bevan's commitment to play for Australia in Sri Lanka will rob captain David Byas of his services for the last four matches. Youth is one thing, experience quite another.

Leicestershire, who go to Cheltenham on the back of consecutive innings victories, carry more of the latter, having won old heads such as James Whitaker, Phil Simmons and Gordon Parsons to help them negotiate the bumps and a potent attack formed by David Millns and Alan Mullally.

Middlesex, meanwhile, hope to take advantage of an injury to Curtly Ambrose at Northampton, in particular on Sunday, where the clash of second-placed against fourth is the match of the day.

Jon Culley

The crown jewel in an age of greatness

Jon Culley pays tribute to the brilliance of Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji, the Indian prince who made his Test debut for England 100 years ago this week

Were it possible, just once, to travel back through time, it is difficult to imagine a destination more tempting in cricket's past than the couple of decades spanning the final years of the last century and the beginning of this, the era encompassing what was to become known as cricket's Golden Age.

If it were feasible to be more specific still in determining where to touch down, one might well conclude that, to bear witness to these times, no more agreeable vantage point could be found than a deckchair at Hove. Those fortunate enough to have enjoyed that privilege in the Sussex sea air between 1895 and 1904 would have seen, in his pomp, Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji, the Indian prince known with affection everywhere he performed as "Ranji."

These years were indeed patterned with a golden thread, illuminated by the concurrent careers of

as the first to score 100 before lunch in a Test, moving from 41 to 154 in 130 minutes on the third morning.

The feat made Ranji the talk of the cricketing world, just as he had been on his debut for Sussex in 1895, when he scored 77 not out and 150 against the MCC at Lord's. In that first season he scored 1,775 runs at an average of around 50, which he was to maintain throughout his career. Effectively, this spanned fewer than 15 years and yet produced almost 25,000 runs in 500 innings, including 72 centuries, 14 of them turned into doubles. Twice he scored more than 3,000 runs in a season.

The cricket of Ranji, though, was not to be measured in statistics, impressive though they were, for he was a cricketer his contemporaries perceived as possessed of magic.

In part, this was due to his exotic countenance and to the impression most late Victorians held of India, as a land of conjurers, rope tricks, flying carpets and all manner of mysteries. But he brought a real mystical charm to the game with the way he played it. Blessed with the sharpest of eyes and timing which no other player of the day - not even Fry, his scientific Sussex teammate - could match, he also had great strength and control in his wrists, which enabled him to drive with substantial power but at the same time execute the most delicate of strokes.

'Ranji captured the imagination of the public as no other player had'

It was an age in which amateurs, unshackled by the mundane requirements of professionalism, were able to approach their game with a carefree and daring spirit, unworried by such trifles as wages and contracts. In this climate, Ranji, of Cambridge University and Sussex, emerged as a star when the word still had some meaning.

As elegant a man as he was a cricketer, Ranji captured the imagination of the public as no other player had; and never more so than in that week 100 years ago when, at the age of 23, he made his debut for England against Australia in Manchester, the first Indian ever to play Test cricket.

It was a remarkable debut; he made 62 in the first innings and, when England batted for a second time, emulated W G Grace by scoring a century in his first Test. In the course of it, he established a mark of his own

mate - could match, he also had great strength and control in his wrists, which enabled him to drive with substantial power but at the same time execute the most delicate of strokes.

In this way he truly revolutionised batting, sending good length, middle stump balls to the leg-side boundary as if spirited away, perfecting the late cut and inventing what we now recognise as the leg glance, which enabled him to score runs in hitherto unexplored territory. He used the lightness of his body - or, as Neville Cardus put it, his "fluttering curves" - to move across to the off side when the ball was pitched fast and short of a length, playing the ball off his hip with the full face of the bat.

The stroke tormented opponents and left spectators open-mouthed. Jessop, from whom a compliment was something to be treasured, described him as "the most brilliant figure in cricket's most brilliant age".



Ready for action: Ranji revolutionised batting with his sharp eye and exquisite timing

Photograph: Allsport/Hulton Getty

Ranji's obituary in *Wisden* paid him what was, in the yellow book's estimation, the highest tribute, conation, the highest tribute to the greatest truth he applied to him."

Never had been witnessed in a player such a natural ability as his and yet Ranji owed more, in fact, to practice than to what was probably appreciated by those who watched him, and who assumed from his unorthodox strokes that he played by instinct. In fact, until he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1890, he had no experience of organised cricket. At Cambridge, however, the game be-

came an obsession. He hired Bill Lockwood, Tom Richardson and Tom Hayward, professionals on the Surrey staff, along with Jack Hearn of Middlesex, to bowl at him endlessly in the nets and insisted they bowl at their fastest, which in the case of Lockwood and Richardson was at fearsome speed.

By the time he qualified for Sussex he was ready for anything, at home on hard, fast surfaces but an expert, too, at playing rain-affected pitches, as he demonstrated against Middlesex at Hove in 1900 when, in the most helpful conditions, he

made 202 in three hours. His career, in the end, was abbreviated by duty. On inheriting the title of Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar in 1907, he became increasingly pre-occupied with that state's administration and with other political distractions. He also had the misfortune to lose an eye in a shooting accident, despite which he returned to England to play a few more matches for Sussex in 1920.

He died suddenly in 1933 at the age of 61, after which India instituted the Ranji Trophy in his honour. Nowadays there is a clamour for

greater recognition of his talents here, much of it coming from India, where commentators point out that for all that the English cherish Ranji's memory, they do not commemorate him as they do Grace, even though the good doctor, in 1908, said of him that "you will never see a batsman to beat him if you live for 100 years".

Cardus, more eloquently, said that "cricket was changed into something rich and strange whenever Ranji batted. When he passed out of cricket, a wonder and a glory departed from the game forever."

SPORTS LETTERS

From Mr G Collyer
Sir: When a company issues shares under false pretences, the board, or at least the executive members, are given at best a hard time by the shareholders, or at worst, lose their jobs.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the dispute between the Rugby Football Union and the other home unions, if England are to be eliminated from competition with Scotland, Wales and Ireland for the next 10 years, perhaps the rugby powers can use some of the spare £87.5m to reimburse all those England rugby supporters who have bought debentures at Twickenham over the past couple of years. Money lovingly given, in return for an annual interest payment of hard, competitive rugby, against the traditional enemy, not just

a series of non-competitive exhibition games against aspiring nations.

I suggest a refund of about one-third would be appropriate, given the scale of the loss of genuine international competition. This may also provide some compensation for that body of English support which is now going to be deprived of enjoyable annual trips to away fixtures.

Alternatively, like any management team that has taken money under false pretences, it could do the decent thing and resign. Such falling on swords is sadly a rare feature these days, but it would be some, if scant, compensation for quite simply failing to deliver the promise of an annual feast of rugby.

GEORGE COLLYER
London SE21

From Mr P Davidson
Sir: Real rugby fans will breathe a sigh of relief if England stay out of the Five Nations' Championship. There can be few things less fun than watching England play their version of the game.

Has anyone thought of inviting Italy into the event? Not just to make up the numbers; Italian participation could lead to a blend of experience with Latin flair, which could do much for the game as a whole.

PETER M DAVIDSON
Wigan

From Mr H Manley
Sir: Regarding the apparent resurgence of British players at Wimbledon this year and in particular Tim Henman's win over Yevgeny Kafelnikov. Clearly the victor played a good solid serve-and-volley match and I take my hat off to the chap. However, as one of the majority of people for whom the Wimbledon experience is the experience of the BBC coverage of Wimbledon, I found shots of Henman doing his thing in slow motion to Elgar and Sue Barker dubbing Henman "Our Hero" upsetting and over the top. To me such feelings have nothing to do with tennis.

I must admit that I feel relieved when all the Brits are finally knocked out. This is not because I

am anti-patriotic or hate the British players, but simply because I like to sit down, relax and enjoy the beauty of the game for itself. And for me a large part of the poetry and escapism of the game, as a spectator sport, is that unlike cricket or football, which being team sports are more naturally a nationalistic province, it is individualistic; that is, more about characters than nationalities.

Martin Luther King said a person should be judged not on the colour of their skin but on the content of their character. Personally, I find which tennis player I support is down to a question of style and attitude rather than nationality.

If there is a resurgence in British tennis, and, of course, it would be

a good thing if there was, then the downside of the equation will be that the television coverage of tennis will become more and more like a prosy chest-beating jingoistic assembly in the school gym. This would be, in the words of John McEneaney, "the pits of the earth".

H MANLEY
Thatcham
Berkshire

From Mrs M Heath
Sir: Featherweight, lightweight, even welterweight boxers are not required to fight heavyweights to prove their skill and courage.

In tennis, all are pitted against those blessed with overwhelming natural advantages. Although arguably professional tennis is more spectacle than sport - spectators, not participants, finance it - we are deprived of some of the most skilled, elegant and artistic performers simply because they are not physically capable of turning a racket into a sledge-hammer.

Why not a men's up-to-six-foot category and a six-foot-plus? Or something?

MARJORIE HEATH
Diss
Norfolk

Letters should be marked "For publication" and contain daytime and evening telephone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

Resurgent
Surrey
surprise
sceptics
THE WEEK
AHEAD

Hidden Personality
Then again, it's amazing he still has any money after the way he has lived since fame and fortune came his way at Crooked Stick in 1991. They did not nickname him "Wild Thing" for nothing.

olympic games 5



Ready to erupt: German Silva goes for a training jog around the block, Mexican-style - up, down and inside the 13,800ft Nevado de Toluca volcano

Photograph: Sergio Dorantes

His run-up to Atlanta? A volcano

German Silva is able to laugh at the day in 1994 when, following press vehicles, he veered off the New York marathon course with only a few hundred yards to go. Realising his mistake after a few seconds, he chased his fellow Mexican Benjamin Paredes like a man possessed and caught him in the final strides to win the race.

Last year, Silva won the New York race again, this time avoiding the scenic detour. Now as he trains for Atlanta, Silva's only chance of getting lost is in the mist that shrouds the 13,800ft Nevado de Toluca volcano. By the time he reaches the crater for a few laps inside the rim on a lunar-like landscape, his view is like that from a cruising airliner, with Toluca's cloud layer far below.

The 28-year-old hopes that running up and down the extinct volcano once a week for the past year - a full marathon distance from bottom to top and back - will give him the edge in Atlanta by strengthening his oxygen-deprived heart, lungs and muscles.

To local hikers and picnickers, the man in the File sweatshirt - his sponsor - and Spandex shorts is either a superman or a madman as he glides

past along a twisting, rock-strewn path, daunting to hardened walkers, up to an altitude where this reporter could barely summon the breath to ask him a few questions. Hikers who reach the top often get white flashes in their eyes from oxygen deprivation. A Japanese runner who once tried to train with Silva fainted.

At the top, having climbed two and a half miles at a speed most of us could not run on the flat, and having gone from 25C to near-freezing, the little Mexican jogs into the crater for a few laps around the eerie, charcoal-coloured "Lake of the Sun".

Amazingly, as he warms himself by a log fire, the marathon man is not alone. In the lake, a youth paddles a tiny, bright-yellow, one-man dinghy, apparently his idea of a day out in the country. By the lake's edge, a family of three is setting up a taco stand to make a few pesos out of the occasional hiker. Private initiative, Mexican-style.

Sometimes, for instance last winter when there was 20 inches of snow outside, Silva spends the night in the stone ruins of a hikers' refuge, huddling in a sleeping bag against sub-zero temperatures. For company, he has the guards from a nearby radio and TV antenna tower.

Phil Davison meets a marathon runner who has been to the mountain of hope and felt the expectation of his country. German Silva will be chasing gold for himself and Mexico

All of Mexico, disappointed by a lone silver medal in Barcelona where Silva finished sixth in the 10,000 metres, will be rooting for the 5ft 3in, 8st runner when he tackles the steamy Atlanta course on 4 August. His compatriots Paredes and the London marathon winner Dionicio Ceron are also favoured for medals, but the little man from the Atlantic coast state of Veracruz has won over his nation by his refusal to play the superstar role.

He has used his success to encourage children in Veracruz to take up running and stay away from alcohol and drugs, organising youth races in which File T-shirts and shoes are the coveted prizes. "I also organised a race for men carrying 100kg [220lb] loads of oranges. You should have seen them move, some of them did about five miles an hour over a 400-yard course," he said.

In his home village of Tecamate - population 500 - barefoot children chase after his Jeep when he and his 33-year-old Dutch wife, Miranda, arrive with clothes and school utensils

such as pencils, donated by her neighbours on the Dutch island of Texel. They met through mutual friends after he ran the Rotterdam marathon in 1992, married last year and have an eight-month-old baby,

It's difficult to see such a beautiful country as mine, full of natural assets, where the difference between rich and poor is so great

Zyanya, a name taken from Silva's Aztec ancestors. "I think our long-distance running ability comes from the Aztecs," said Silva's coach, the former marathon man Rodolfo Gomez, at their Mexico City training camp. "When the Emperor Montezuma [before Hernan Cortes conquered Mexico in 1521] wanted fresh fish for his palace in Tenochtitlan [now Mexico City], he would send men out to run more than 200 miles to the sea and back."

Silva's mother, Audoxia, is a Totonaca Indian. His father, Agapito, an orange grower who lived to see him win New York the first time round but died last July, was of Portuguese origin. True to his half-Indian roots, Silva calls the volcano by its ancient Otomi Indian name, *Chinamtecal*, or "Guardian of the Mountain".

Despite his success, Silva has little to show for it, lives in a simple home on the edge of Toluca, drives a four-wheel drive Ford Explorer and feels best when he returns to the village where he used to help his dad pick oranges and drive them across country for the higher prices of the Pacific coast.

"I've been taken to New York's Waldorf Astoria, I've been on the Letterman show twice [on late-night

television in the United States], but I feel best in my village," he told me after returning to the foot of the volcano. He sold the Mercedes he won in New York in 1994 and a Jeep Cherokee the following year in order to finance his training because, as he pointedly noted, "I have received no support from the Mexican Olympic Committee."

After his first New York win, the governor of Veracruz state asked him what he would like as a gift. "Bring electricity to my village," the athlete replied. Within months, power, and TV sets, came to Tecamate. Silva hopes an Olympic gold might push the governor to bring in running water.

He started running after the family donkey persistently dumped him into orange groves instead of taking him the two and a half miles to school. At 17, he ran a 5km race with nationally known runners and finished third. "No one believed me because they'd never heard of me. They accused me of using a bike," he said.

"When I repeated the feat a couple of weeks later, they took notice." Apart from the benefits of altitude training, he reckons the searing heat of his home village means he will feel at home in Atlanta.

Although quietly spoken and

unassuming, Silva is forthright about the social, political and economic problems of his country as well as the mafia-like clique which runs most sports.

After he criticised the Mexican Athletics Federation after the Barcelona Games, the federation's president, Julian Nunez Arana, suspended him for four years but later backed down and lifted the ban three months later.

Silva is also highly critical of Mexico's Olympic Committee chief, Mario Vazquez Rana, who used to insist that Mexican Olympic athletes receive no prizes in other events. Silva noted that Mr Vazquez Rana is one of Mexico's wealthiest men with a fortune possibly hitting the billion-dollar mark.

"It's difficult to see such a beautiful country as mine, full of natural assets, but where the difference between rich and poor is so wide," the runner said. "We just don't have a system that improves the quality of life for the majority."

Medal or no in Atlanta, his mother will be the noisiest spectator. The two of them have a big date later in August as he has long promised to take her to see the Pope in Rome, and has been promised an audience soon after the Olympics close.

Graf out of Games with knee injury

Steffi Graf is out of the Olympic Games. She was forced to withdraw yesterday because of a knee injury. The German tennis federation said that a medical examination had revealed a problem with Graf's knee ligaments and her doctor had advised her to take a break of several weeks.

Graf first complained of knee problems last month, when pulling out of the Eastbourne tournament prior to Wimbledon.

The withdrawal is a bitter blow for Graf, who had shrugged off the injury to win her seventh Wimbledon singles title, and had put her off-court problems behind her. Graf's father,

Peter, is in prison having been charged with evading millions of marks in taxes on her fortune.

Graf took part in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, where tennis was a demonstration sport, won in Seoul in 1988 and took the silver medal in Barcelona four years ago.

It is unlikely Graf will change her mind, unlike her German team-mate Heike Drechsler, the Olympic long jump champion. Drechsler denied yesterday that she had withdrawn from Atlanta and insisted she still hopes to recover from a knee injury in time to defend her gold medal.

In a statement yesterday in At-

lanta, she said she would not make the German team for the Games. But now 31-year-old Drechsler says she will give herself until 28 July to decide whether to compete in the Olympic long jump. "If I can jump 6.80 to 6.90 metres in practice, I will go to Atlanta," she said.

Drechsler, gold medalist at the 1992 Barcelona Games, tore a knee ligament in May. The injury healed but the adjacent muscle is not yet at full strength, according to her management. "I will not go to Atlanta as a tourist," Drechsler admitted. "If I go, I do want to fight for medals."

She added she would not rule out

competing at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Elsewhere, three members of the Ugandan boxing team have been arrested on suspicion of trying to pass counterfeit \$100 bills. But police could not confirm reports that the three were trying to buy women's underwear when detained at the shopping mall in Gainesville, northeast of Atlanta.

Gainesville police named the three as boxers Kizza Bakule, Charles and Franco Ogenho who were with the boxing coach, Dick Katende. The three were turned over to the US Secret Service, which is investigating the case.

US athletics 'doomed' says Lewis

Carl Lewis, the eight-times Olympic champion, says athletics is "doomed" in the United States unless administrators take a more professional approach. Lewis, who is aiming for an unprecedented fourth consecutive Olympic long jump title at Atlanta, said he did not think the sport had progressed as it should have done.

"I think unless it does, it's doomed and that's sad," Lewis said. "The passion to compete is there, but the passion to be in the sport is no longer there. I feel like I've put in 15 years in the sport to try to get somewhere and I feel like it is drifting back to where it was when I started. That is really depressing."

The 35-year-old American said track and field needed to develop a new marketing strategy and integrate leading athletes into its plan. "We've lost the kids, the fan base," he said. "Track and field, to get the fans back, should not charge one kid under 18."

He said he was so disillusioned with the sport that he would not recommend it to children.

Ollan Cassell, executive director of USA Track and Field, said Lewis "should look at his bank account" if he thinks the sport is in decline. "He should look at the media exposure and the attendance. They've all been better than they were 10 years ago."

Judgement day for the judges

Eyes down for another round of outrageous adjudication, sit-ins and God knows what else. Or perhaps not. The Olympic boxing tournament has cleaned up its act somewhat since the farce of the 1988 Seoul Games. Threatened with removal from the Olympics, boxing had no choice.

Barcelona passed with little controversy. Much of the credit must go to the criticised computer scoring system, employed for the first time at the 1992 Games. The nightmare judging of Seoul is prevented by a system which demands that for a point to be awarded, three of the five judges must press a scoring button at the same time. Judges found to be consistently out of line with the consensus opinion are weeded out.

But while Seoul was a disaster, the previous tournament in Los Angeles also raised questions. American fighters hardly lost a round, let alone a fight. Admittedly, the 1984 US squad had strength in depth, spawning professional champions such as Evander Holyfield, Pernell Whitaker, Meldrick Taylor and Mark Breland, but the Atlanta tournament will be scrutinised as the USA clamours for success.

The omens for fair play are not good. At a pre-Olympic tournament in Atlanta, the Thai ban-

SPORT-BY-SPORT GUIDE

No 10: BOXING

Heavyweight Vichai Khadpo suffered a shocking loss to an American. The judges deemed that Khadpo, the world No 1, had not landed a single scoring punch. Rip-offs, it seems, are not solely a Korean prerogative.

As ever, the bulk of the medals in the 12 weight categories are expected to be shared by Cuba and the USA, the only nations to field competitors in every division. While boxers from other nations compete in international tournaments which serve as Olympic qualifiers, the Cuban and American national championships produce automatic Olympians. Potentially dubious officiating notwithstanding, American success is far from guaranteed. At Barcelona, Cuba took seven golds, compared with Oscar De La Hoya's lone triumph for the USA. America's strongest hope is the lightweight Antonio Tarver, who should prevent a whitewash if the Cubans run rampant.

BRITISH TEAM Featherweight: David Price, Light: Paul Jones, Welterweight: Paul Jones, Heavyweight: Paul Jones, Super Heavyweight: Paul Jones

Glyn Leach

Thompson's injury gives Lee another chance

Jason Lee, a 26-year-old from Old Throughtons, will replace Rob Thompson. Great Britain's vice captain and leading goalscorer, who has been forced to drop out of the Olympic squad following injury in last Saturday's training game against Trinidad in which the Hounslow centre-forward scored twice in a 6-0 victory, writes Bill Colwill.

Thompson, 30, who would have made his 150th international appearance in Britain's second game in Atlanta, has ruptured a ligament in his ankle.

Like Thompson, Lee tasted the Olympic atmosphere in Barcelona. He won the first of his 47 caps in 1990, but has been in and out of international favour over the years. He is less of an out-and-out striker than Thompson, although he scored both Britain's goals in a 3-2 defeat by Germany on his first appearance.

Russell Garcia, Britain's only surviving member of the gold medal-winning team from Seoul in 1988, yesterday warned that Atlanta's extreme heat and humidity could take a heavy toll during the Games.

The 26-year-old believes it is the combination of the two elements that will cause problems for competitors despite efforts to simulate the conditions during training.

"Though Barcelona was hot, it was not very humid. Here it is going to be very hot, but it's the humidity that will be the real killer," Garcia said. "I expect the hockey games will be played at a very slow rate and the fact we have rolling substitutions will help."

"But there are a few key players in every side who will be on the

pitch for the whole 70 minutes. It is going to be very hard going for them."

In an attempt to get used to the expected hothouse conditions, the team underwent several sessions wearing special neoprene suits that made their body sweat more than normal.

"We did about eight sessions in them just sprinting, then walking, then sprinting again," explained Garcia, now technical director of the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona. "The suits certainly made us sweat."

6 coming soon...the open

Hidden Personality
Maybe that's because of his one-time penchant for smashing up his house (although he denied beating up his wife), or his threat, during one somewhat black mood, to drive his Mercedes off a mountain in Colorado.



David Leadbetter (left) provides a helping hand as Nick Faldo practises putting in preparation for tomorrow's first round of the Open Championship. Photograph: Robert Hallam

Faldo worth a place in the Cotton club

To be good you must put golf before everything else, before a wife and family, before everything. You have to be both selfish and self-sacrificing. For some reason Nick Faldo springs to mind, but the words were spoken by Henry Cotton to a group of young professionals 20 years ago.

In the pantheon of great British golfers, there are places for Tom Morris, Harry Vardon, Max Faulkner, Fred Daly, Tony Jacklin, Sandy Lyle and Ian Woosnam, but the real race is between Cotton and Faldo. "For me," Peter Alliss once wrote, "Cotton is not only the greatest British player of the last 60 years but the best ever. In his own way he has been one of the most caring and influential contributors to golf this century."

"Henry was the one who got us into golf clubs," Fred Daly said. "Being a pro before the war meant there were a whole lot of clubs we weren't allowed into. Henry opened the doors. He made professional golf what it is." Cotton had planned to become a civil engineer but fate intervened.

A pupil at Allyn's public school, he was a useful cricketer. After a match at Marlborough, Cotton and three other juniors had to take the team's cricket bag back to Dulwich. On the train they composed a note: "We beg to show our kind appreciation of being allowed the privilege of transporting the cricket bag from Marlborough to Dulwich to the detriment of our tender muscles and to the advantage of the select and most condescending. We think it is a pity that people who are supposed to be looked up to should so fail in their thoughts for the school and their fellow beings."

The note was pushed under the door of the prefects' room, a red rag to a bully if ever there was one. Cotton later recounted that his three friends were "brutally, vindictively and excessively thrashed by four prefects with canes (including one walking cane). The prefects struck with all their might and were particularly vicious."

Cotton, of course, refused to be

caned on medical grounds. His outraged father delivered a barrage of broadsides against the school and the impasse was only resolved by Cotton's departure. At the age of 16 he became a golf professional. Cotton was one of six junior assistants at Fulwell Golf Club at 12 shillings and sixpence a week (about 62 pence in decimal currency) and his job in the shop was to sweep the floor, clean shoes and sandpaper hickory shafts for the clubmaker.

At the age of 19, he became the head professional at Langley Park, Beckenham, the youngest in the history of British golf. He spent hour after hour hitting balls into a net in his back garden. "I practised until dark, often by lamplight, concentrating on every shot."

Like Cotton, Faldo remodelled his swing; like Cotton, he went to America. Unlike Cotton, he won the Masters

he said, "and every putt was to win the Open. I had the desire to be Open champion and I did everything within my power to achieve that goal. I realised I wasn't going to be a physical giant, but I made myself stronger. I realised early on that golf was played from the elbows down and all the rest was flavouring. I built my hands and arms up to the point where I could hit the ball with my left hand and right hand independently and almost as well as with both together."

In 1927 he played in the Open Championship at St Andrews and finished eighth behind Bobby Jones. The following year he visited the United States, re-fashioned his swing and finished third in the Sacramento Open. He made a victorious Ryder Cup debut in 1929 at Moor-town but didn't make another appearance in the biennial competition for eight years.

Cotton and his monogrammed shirts were a one off. His fellow professionals thought he was conceited and arrogant. He thought the profession was shabbily treated and decamped to the Royal Waterloo club, near Brussels. "It seemed to me," he said, "that visiting players to Britain received better treatment than the home-based ones." In the Open at Royal St George's in 1934 he opened with a 67 followed by a 65. It inspired the Dunlop 65 golf ball. Cotton had a nine-stroke lead going into the last day and, despite suffering from stomach cramps, won by five with a record-equalling aggregate of 283.

He won again at Carnoustie in 1937 and his third and final Open triumph was at Muirfield in 1948. The feeling is that

there would have been more but for the intervention of the war. Shortly before his death in December 1987 he was knighted. However, Sir Henry had already been bestowed with the most honourable accolade. He was simply referred to as the Maestro.

It is invidious to compare sportsmen of different eras, but if Cotton was the Maestro, Nick Faldo MBE (no knight-hood yet) is the Master. Faldo, the archetypal only child, was not into team sports. He excelled at swimming and cycling. In 1971, when he was 13, his parents bought a colour television. On a summer's evening in Welwyn Garden City, Faldo was glued to the box, watching the Masters from Augusta. He saw Jack Nicklaus playing golf and from that moment Faldo joined the Cotton club: "golf became a life's work".

Like Cotton, he remodelled his swing. Unlike Cotton, he went to America. Within two years of learning the game he had a handicap of plus one. Eight days after his 18th birthday in 1975 he became the youngest winner of the English Amateur Championship. Naturally, he turned professional and was 58th in the Order of Merit in 1976, with £2,112. In 1983 he was first with £140,000 and two years later, when his arch rival Sandy Lyle won the Open at Sandwich, Faldo turned to David Leadbetter and adopted a new swing.

Like Cotton, Faldo has won the Open three times: at Muirfield in 1987, St Andrews in 1990 and Muirfield again in 1992. He won the Masters at Augusta in 1989, and again in 1990, both in sudden death play-offs. He did not need extra holes to demolish Greg Norman, the world No 1, at Augusta last April, scoring 67 to the Australian's 78 in the final round.

When Faldo won at Muirfield nine years ago he had 18 pars in the last round while Paul Azinger finished bogey, bogey to lose by a stroke. At the prize-giving, Azinger was disappointed at Faldo's lukewarm reaction to the American's demise. At Augusta three months ago, Faldo's reaction to a beaten opponent could not have been warmer. "Faldo's gone way up in my estimation," Norman said after being embraced by the Englishman on the 18th green. "I just wanted to give him a good hug," Faldo said. "I felt for him. It was as simple as that."

With his second marriage on the rocks, Faldo is exiled on the US Tour but only a fool would bet against him adding to his portfolio of six major titles. Of his momentous final round in the Masters, Faldo said: "I was able to hit it where I wanted to. The way I played under that pressure, especially over the last nine holes..." He kept referring to a Ben Hogan quote: the game was 100 per cent mental and 100 per cent physical.

Faldo never saw Cotton in his prime and in that respect the latter has the edge. "Here is a true champion in the making," Cotton remarked after watching Faldo win the first of his PGA Championship titles at Royal Birkdale in 1978. Cotton on silk.

A hole-by-hole guide to Royal Lytham and St Annes

The 125th Open golf championship tees off at Royal Lytham tomorrow. Andy Farrell gives a hole-by-hole guide to the links, using statistics from the last Open staged there in 1988 to show the average number of shots played per hole, and to rank the 18 holes by difficulty.

The horses for courses theory points to Seve Ballesteros reversing his poor recent form. Two of the Spaniard's three Open wins were at Lytham (1979 and 1988).

The holes where a challenge can fall apart come towards the end, where Lytham carries a powerful sting in the tail.

1 206 yards Par 3

Only Open course to begin with a short hole. Bunkers flank the green, those on the left more in play as tee is sheltered from right-to-left wind. Hole history: In 1979 Sam Torrance hit his tee shot to an inch. "This is good," he thought. 84 shots later...

Average score in 1988: 3.12. Ranking by difficulty in 1988: 12

2 437 yards Par 4

Slight dog-leg left. Railway line on the right is out of bounds but right side of fairway opens up the entrance to the green. Anything left needs to carry front left greenside bunker.

Pro to watch: Like the next, perfectly suits Colin Montgomerie's fade off the tee. 1988 average score: 4.24. 1988 ranking: 10

The Royal roll of honour
Previous winners of the Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes (winning score and victor's prize money in brackets): 1926 Bobby Jones, US (\$291, nil - James-teun); 1952 Bobby Locke, SA (£287, £300); 1958 Peter Thomson, Aus (£278, £1,000); 1963 Bob Charles, NZ (£277, £1,500); 1969 Tony Jacklin, GB (£280, £4,250); 1974 Gary Player, SA (£289, £5,500); 1979 Seve Ballesteros, Sp (£283, £15,000); 1988 Seve Ballesteros, Sp (£273, £80,000).

Since the 1988 Open, the total yardage has been increased from 6,857 to 6,892 yards.

3 457 yards Par 4

Long, straight par-4 down the line of the railway. Fairway bunker on left must be avoided or green will not be reached in two. Green slopes away like up-turned saucer.

Pro's play: Don't aim for the flag. Play for the middle, putt to the side. 1988 average: 4.33. 1988 ranking: 8

4 393 yards Par 4

Dog-leg left, which suddenly turns into the prevailing wind. Bank of rough right, but bunkers left and this side leaves blind second. Short-iron approach should set up birdie chance.

Hacker's guide: Take extra club for second. Elevation fortresses distance and green is 40 yards past ridge. 1988 average: 4.36. 1988 ranking: 6

5 212 yards Par 3

Long short hole to small, narrow green which slopes away on all sides. Usually plays between 3-iron and 4-iron. Four deep bunkers on left, two more front right.

Hacker's guide: Resist temptation to play from championship tee. Fortunately, it's only used for the Open. 1988 average: 3.26. 1988 ranking: 7

6 490 yards Par 5

Pro to watch: Ian Woosnam - rare hole where draw is needed off the tee. 1988 average: 4.38. 1988 ranking: 18

7 553 yards Par 5

Hole history: In 1988 Price and Ballesteros eagled but Faldo three-putted for par to drop out of contention. 1988 average: 4.61. 1988 ranking: 17

8 418 yards Par 4

Hacker's guide: Take extra club for second. Elevation fortresses distance and green is 40 yards past ridge. 1988 average: 4.07. 1988 ranking: 14

9 164 yards Par 3

Pro to watch: Severity of bunkers will require short game mastery of Phil Mickelson. 1988 average: 2.97. 1988 ranking: 15

10 334 yards Par 4

Pro's play: Approach should be short of the flag to leave uphill putt, but not spin off the front. 1988 average: 4.27. 1988 ranking: 9

11 542 yards Par 5

Hole history: In 1988 Ballesteros holed from 20ft for birdie to put him one ahead of Price, whose putt tipped out. 1988 average: 5.29. 1988 ranking: 11

12 198 yards Par 3

Pro to watch: Shot-making skills of Corey Pavin should come to the fore here. 1988 average: 3.45. 1988 ranking: 3

13 342 yards Par 4

Pro to watch: John Daly. If he drops out of contention, will he try to drive the green? 1988 average: 3.97. 1988 ranking: 16

14 445 yards Par 4

Pro's play: Level fours home from here. "If you haven't made your score by now, pray." 1988 average: 4.63. 1988 ranking: 1

15 463 yards Par 4

Hacker's guide: A nest of bunkers 50 yards short of the green waits for anyone greedy out of the rough. 1988 average: 4.61. 1988 ranking: 2

16 357 yards Par 4

Pro to watch: Ballesteros - birdie via car park in 1979, almost holed second shot in 1988. What next? 1988 average: 4.12. 1988 ranking: 13

17 467 yards Par 4

Hole history: Plaque commemorates Bobby Jones's mashie-iron shot from sandy waste area on left which helped him win in 1926. 1988 average: 4.39. 1988 ranking: 4

18 414 yards Par 4

Pro to watch: Corneth a par to win the Open, corneth Nick Faldo. 1988 average: 4.37. 1988 ranking: 5

John May 1950

هكذا من الاعلى

coming soon...the open 7



Open-air theatre: Barry Lane makes his way on to the 18th green of the Royal Lytham and St Annes course in yesterday's penultimate practice day for the Open Championship

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Strickers keep love affair on the fairways

In a world where the going rate of pay for caddies is 10 per cent of their masters' prize money, Nicki Stricker must be the equivalent of a lottery winner.

Whenever she picks up her pro's bag, her cut is never less than 50 per cent and she has the most binding contract of all - a marriage licence.

She is also the driving force behind the hottest player on the US tour: her husband has just won two prestigious titles - the Kemper and Western Opens - and become a candidate for next year's US Ryder Cup team.

At 29, Steve Stricker has everything - a golf game with no apparent weaknesses, money in the bank and a wife who keeps him on the straight and narrow, both in life and at Lytham, where tomorrow he makes his first appearance in the Open.

Today is Steve and Nicki's third wedding anniversary, but they have been inseparable, especially on a golf course, for the last nine years. Their relation-



Steve Stricker with his wife, Nicki, at Lytham this week

ship began when Nicki's father, Dennis Tiziani, the golf coach at the University of Wisconsin, started to instruct Steve even though he was studying at the rival University of Illinois.

"I turned down Dennis when he offered me a place, but he still told me that if I need any help to come and see him. I did OK in my junior year, but I wanted to be a better player so I did go to see him."

It wasn't just Dennis he started to see regularly. At that stage, Nicki, who is two years younger than Steve, had a budding golf game of her own and was one of her father's pupils.

"In those days I had a handicap of two," says Nicki. "I still play a little, but my handicap is more like six now." So why did she make the transition from playing to caddying? "Steve was playing in some amateur event and couldn't find a caddy. I knew his game well, so I volunteered. From that moment there was never any question of me not doing it."

"He does his own yardages - always has. I think he'd do them himself whether I was there or not. I'm happy with that if there's a mistake it's not my fault. However, we talk about club selection a lot and he'll ask my opinion on the line of his putts if he can't decide himself."

"Does he lose his temper with me? Sometimes he needs to let off steam, but there will be times when that happens whoever the caddy is. I don't take it personally and we never get into an argument on the course. If we were at home, though, it might be different."

"Am I the best paid bagman

Paul Trow reports on the husband and wife team aiming for Open glory this week

on tour? That's what the other caddies say, but it's never been a big deal for me - money is not an issue. I get on well with them all, but initially I had to prove myself to them."

For such a high-profile couple, they are both remarkably shy, giving the impression the last thing they want is a prolonged spell in the limelight. But they also share an underlying stubbornness honed by years of struggle on mini-tours, and are content with their unconventional lifestyle.

"It works well because she's a good player in her own right," says Steve. "She understands the game, and me. We've progressed each year we've been together. I got my card at the qualifying school in November 1993, but I had already come close to winning the Canadian Open that year - I led after two rounds. Since then we've had some opportunities and I finally got there at the Kemper Open. Then came the Western Open. That was definitely the best I'd ever played."

A cursory glance at his record underlines it was never going to be long before he won. In 1994, his debut season, he finished 50th on the US money list with earnings of \$334,409. The following year he was 40th with \$438,931 before hitting the jackpot in 1996 with \$925,932 to date. "He can be as good as he wants - he's the only one who stands in his way," says Nicki. "Once he realises his potential, it will be a case of seeing how he reacts."

Those are also his peers' sentiments. "He didn't know how good he was," says fellow American Billy Andrade, who was joint second in the Western Open, eight shots behind Stricker. "He's got the whole package. Greg Norman's got the whole package. Norman can hit a finesse shot, he can putt, he can hit the little chips and he can drive it as far as he wants. That's what Stricker's got."

"It's entirely up to him how good he wants to be," says the former US Open champion Lee Janzen. "If he wants to be the No 1 player in the world, he could do that."

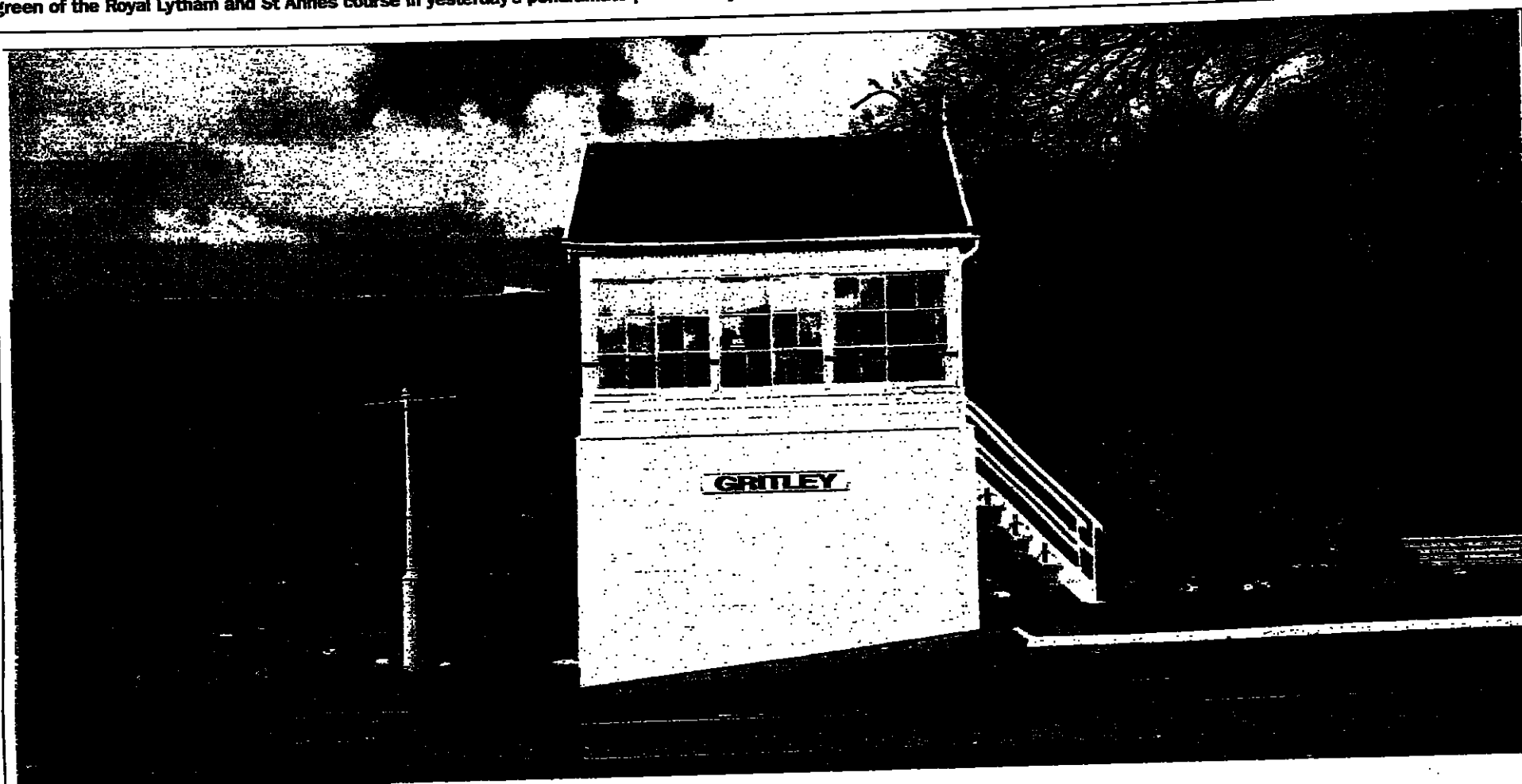
From mini-tours to potential No 1 is a monumental leap by any standards, but the Strickers maintain a detached perspective. "The reason we do it is because it's fun and we always have a good time," says Nicki.

Even when suffering from jet lag. "We haven't had the two greatest practice rounds here, but we're getting adjusted," says Steve. "The travel time has been difficult. I came over last year but didn't qualify for the Open. It's tough coming all that way for so little, but it was a great learning experience."

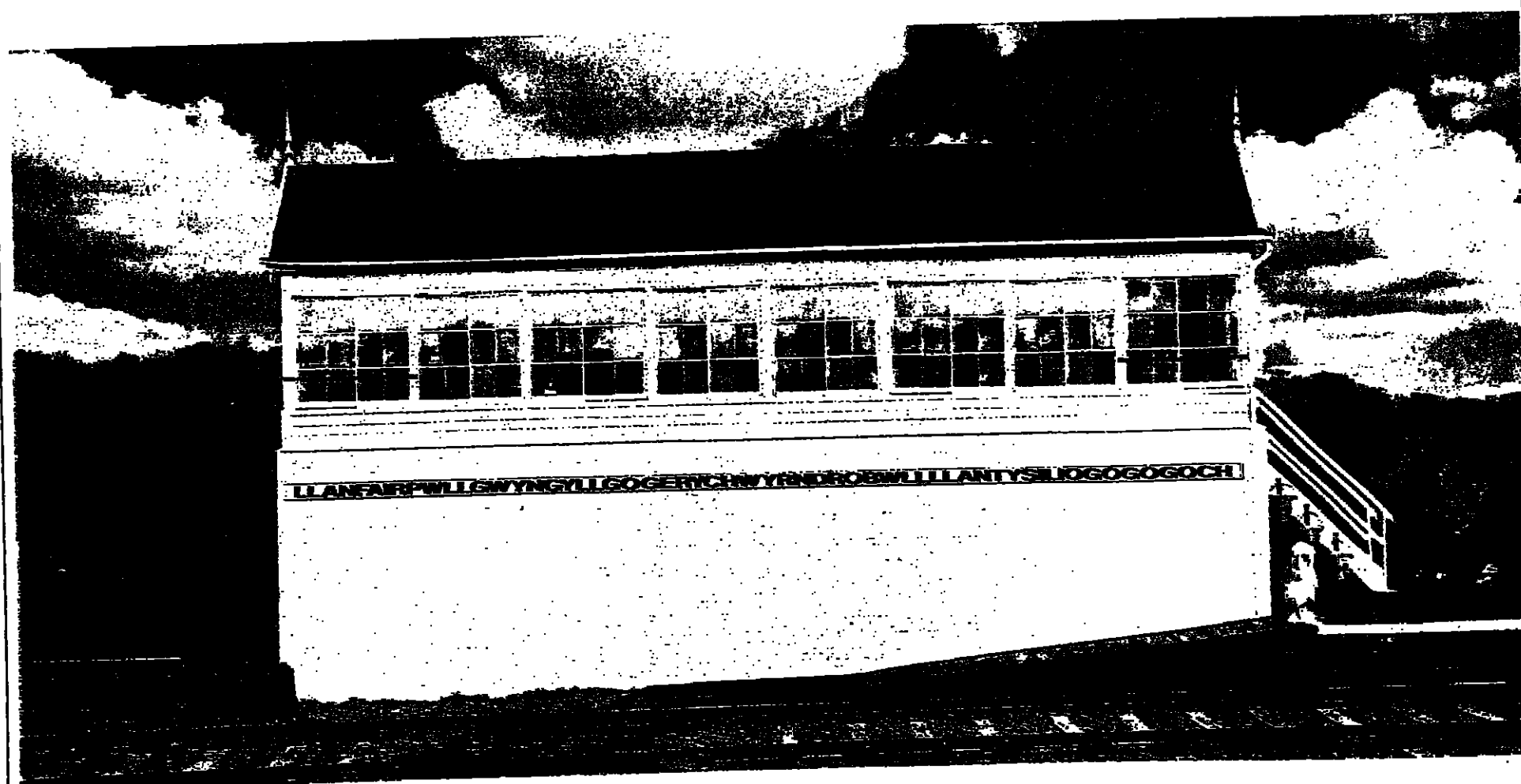
Golfers have long careers these days, especially with the senior tour offering millions of dollars, so the Strickers could have another three decades of on-course companionship if they want it.

"I don't know if she'll be caddying then," says Steve. "We like each other's company and I hope in 20 years time we'll still be travelling together."

And still on 50 per cent each? Now that would be like winning the lottery.



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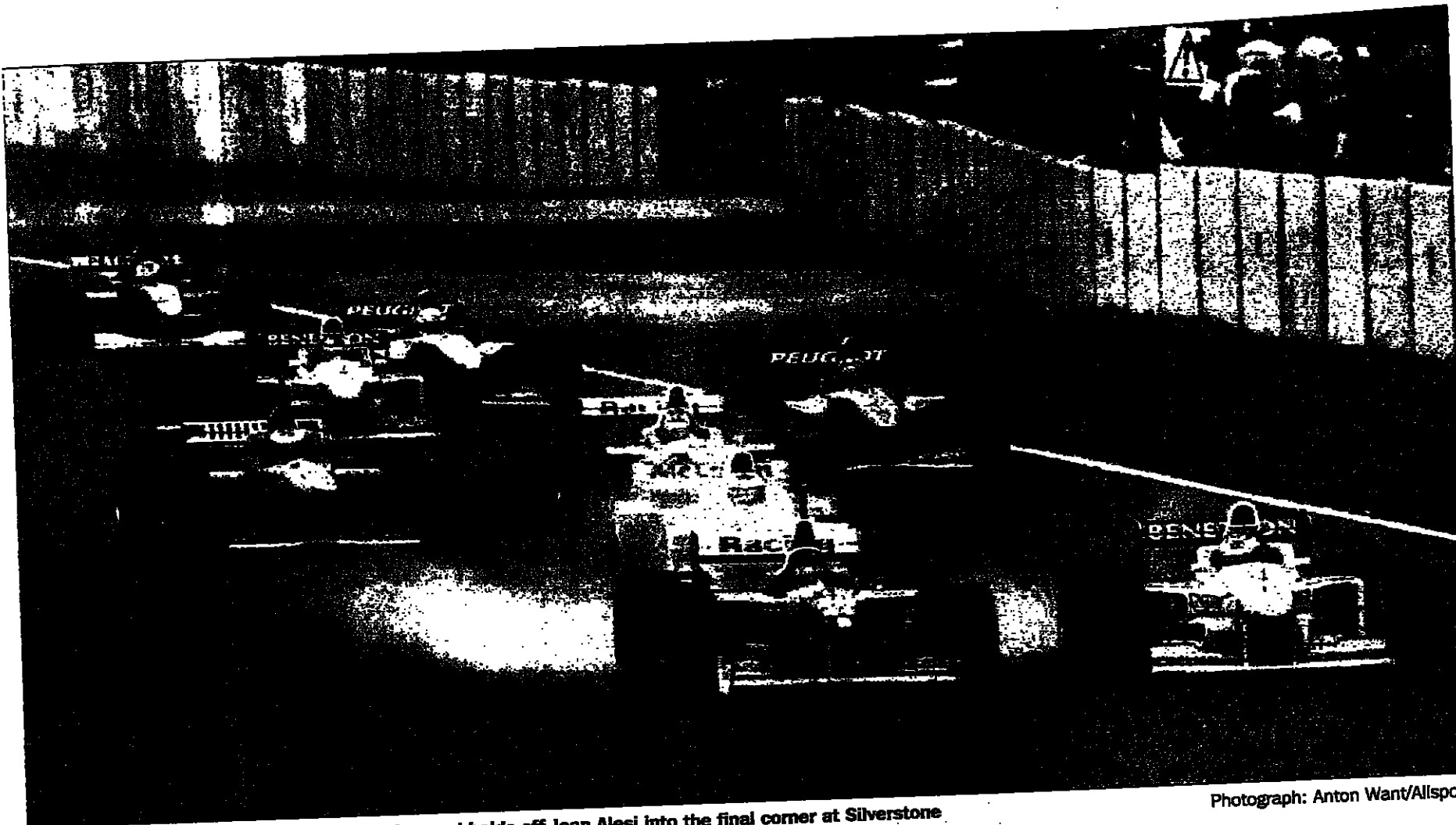


FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM



GRAND PRIX '96 RACE SCHEDULE

German GP
July 28
Hungarian GP
August 11
Belgian GP
August 25
Italian GP
September 8
Portuguese GP
September 22
Japanese GP
October 13



Jumping Jacques: Villeneuve locks his brakes and holds off Jean Alesi into the final corner at Silverstone

Photograph: Anton Want/Allsport

The latest scores and results

For sheer nerve-tingling, pulse-racing excitement, you had to be somewhere other than Silverstone on Sunday. Watching a fresh coat of Dulux dry would be more likely to accelerate the heartbeat than Jacques Villeneuve's cakewalk to victory, but the young Canadian will not have worried about sending the crowd to sleep: the win meant a dramatic cut in the championship lead of his teammate, Damon Hill, the unlucky darling of the Northamptonshire hordes.

Hill's Dream Team lead was also dramatically reduced, although he did pick up points for pole position and third quickest time in the warm-up. Another good finish from Villeneuve will see him through the 200-point barrier - and remember that he was £5m cheaper to hire than Hill.

Williams and Benetton scored well with one car apiece, but good team performances from both McLaren and Jordan saw them racking up the points with both cars in the top six. Ferrari, of course, were the polar opposite, with both cars retiring in plumes of smoke within the first ten laps, and faces in the pitlane matched the scarlet bodywork of the cars as they were packed away. Minus marks and mutterings all around. Another to pick up minus points was Ukyo Katayama and his Tyrrell-Yamaha, and this was a gross miscarriage of justice. The amiable little Japanese driver was the victim of a Pedro Diniz mistake: the wealthy Brazilian revolved his Ligier right in the Tyrrell's path and Katayama, in taking evasive action, terminally damaged his car. A

DRIVER OF THE DAY: MIKA HAKKINEN

What a pleasure to be able to award the driver of the day prize to Mika Hakkinen, confirming that the chirpy Finn is fully restored to health and speed so soon after his horrifying high-speed crash in qualifying for last year's Australian Grand Prix. Hakkinen has been spurred on in his comeback by the pace of David Coulthard, the first truly competitive team-mate he has had since Ayrton Senna (with due respect to Messrs Brundle and



Blundell). There were those who suggested that the Australian crash might have blunted Hakkinen's reflexes or, worse still, caused him to lose his nerve. But anyone who was present to see him hurl his McLaren around Silverstone in qualifying to be quickest in the race morning warm-up, and then cheekily hold off Hill to the crowd's frustration, will have watched a driver at the height of his powers. His first grand prix win cannot be far off.

small compensation was the forceful drive of his Finnish team-mate, Mika Salo, into seventh place, picking up seven most-improved points.

Another scorer in the most-improved department was the young

Italian Giancarlo Fisichella, who seems to have got out of the habit of driving into his Minardi team-mate and circulated solidly and safely at the back of the field to register his first Dream Team points. One Dream Team that is rapidly re-

ceding into the realms of fantasy is Forti, who are so short of cash these days that their drivers were allowed only to drive the three laps in qualifying that prevent the team from being excluded from the championship. A sad waste of talent.

Grand Prix Shopping List

POINTS SCORED

DRIVERS	POINTS	POINTS
£25m		
1 M Schumacher	-2	117
£23m		
2 J Alesi	2	118
3 D Hill	9	224
£20m		
4 G Berger	21	87
£18m		
5 D Coulthard	16	99
6 E Irvine	-4	42
7 J Villeneuve	31	193
£13m		
8 M Hakkinen	31	123
9 H H Frentzen	3	51
£10m		
10 M Brundle	14	52
11 R Barrichello	15	68
12 J Herbert	4	51
£6m		
13 M Salo	7	57
14 P Lamy	-1	25
£4m		
15 P Diniz	0	57
16 U Katayama	-3	2
17 J Verstappen	5	9
18 O Panis	0	76
£3m		
19 L Badoer	0	-6
20 R Rosset	-2	11
21 A Montemini	0	-7
£2m		
22 G Fisichella	7	7
23 V Sospiri	0	0
24 T Marques	0	-5
25 F Lagorce	0	0
26 H Noda	0	0
27 T Inoue	0	0
£1m		
28 M Blundell	0	0
29 J-C Boullion	0	0
30 K Brack	0	0
31 K Burt	0	0
32 E Collard	0	0
33 N Fontana	0	0
34 D Franchitti	0	0
35 N Larini	0	0
36 J Magnussen	0	0
37 A Prost	0	0
38 G Tarquini	0	0
39 K Wendlinger	0	0

CHASSIS

£20m		
40 Benetton	16	124
41 Williams	19	172
£18m		
42 Ferrari	-5	85
£15m		
43 McLaren	14	122
£14m		
44 Sauber	11	55
45 Jordan	13	67
£10m		
46 Ligier	0	71
£8m		
47 Tyrrell	8	44
£5m		
48 Arrows	-3	-16
£3m		
49 Minardi	-2	-13
£1m		
50 Forti	0	-12

ENGINES

£26m		
51 Renault	20	176
£18m		
52 Ferrari	0	110
£15m		
53 Mercedes	16	143
£12m		
54 Peugeot	14	84
£10m		
55 Mugen	0	105
£8m		
56 Ford V10	12	87
£6m		
57 Yamaha	13	64
£4m		
58 Hart	11	24
£3m		
59 Ford Zetec V8	0	0
£2m		
60 Ford ED V8	0	34

Team
Position
Check Line:
0891 891
806

Results &
Top 50
Teams:
0891 891
807

Calls cost 39p per
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49p per minute at all
other times.
Rules are as
previously published
and are available on
request.



WIN a drive in a grand prix car

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car. You will be flown to the AGS team's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

INDIVIDUAL GRAND PRIX PRIZES STILL TO BE WON

You can enter our Formula 1 Dream Team game at any time during the grand prix season. Even if you don't win our top prize, don't worry, there are still prizes to be won with each grand prix race. Enter for the German Grand Prix and you could win a trip to the Belgian Grand Prix. Get The Independent on Wednesday 24 or Thursday 25 July for details on how to register.

BRITISH GRAND PRIX PRIZE WINNER

Congratulations to Adrian Anslow from Chatham, Kent and his team The Pitts. He has won a limited edition Jordan grand prix watch.



Overall Top 50 Dream Teams

One team is in 1st position with 431 points and forty-nine teams are in joint 2nd position with 418 points

- 1 Murray's Mint 3
- 2 Jumpin' Jacks
- 2 Bilbie Racing
- 2 Maddisons
- 2 Crisp One
- 2 The Forty One's
- 2 Elfuletha
- 2 Gecezar!
- 2 Equinox
- 2 Ferrahs
- 2 Gordy's GTs
- 2 Mino's Marauders
- 2 Herb's Flyers

- 2 Dan's Reckless Racers
- 2 Sinckley Formula 1
- 2 Peanjuree
- 2 The Dare Devils
- 2 Dream Machines
- 2 Harvey
- 2 God's Son
- 2 Bislard's Bangers
- 2 I'm Alright Jacques
- 2 Bino One
- 2 They Who Dare
- 2 Charlie's Choice
- 2 DSC
- 2 Petrol Heads
- 2 Ward's Wonders
- 2 Bourbon
- 2 Red Rose Racing
- 2 Formula Fantastic
- 2 Players One

- 2 A K Racing Team A
- 2 Speed Buggy
- 2 Drive Blind
- 2 Used Rubber
- 2 The Pits
- 2 Pippa's Pole Positioners
- 2 AJ A Carte
- 2 G R I
- 2 KBS Team Lightening
- 2 Sherbie's Stars
- 2 Sky Clad
- 2 Tony's Omegas One
- 2 Robin 1
- 2 The Pilkington Formula 1
- 2 Catch Me One
- 2 French Flyers
- 2 Panville
- 2 They Think It's All Over F1

Join over 26,000 readers who are playing Formula 1 Dream Team

Getting reeled in – hook, line and sinker

SO YOU WANT TO... GO SEA FISHING

By Keith Elliott

You must be crackers. Those rapacious Spanish, French and Dutch have already trawled up anything with fins. All that's left is too small for their secret micromesh nets or so tiny that it never ventures outside a rock-pool. Still, sea fishing has a lot going for it, even if there's very little to catch. For example:

a) It's extremely healthy. (You want fresh air? Try Dorset's Chesil Beach in a force eight.)

b) It suits everyone. If you like company, fish on a pier with hundreds of other idiots. If you want solitude, try a night session on a Cornish beach in winter.

c) It's free or very cheap in most cases.

d) Not catching something gives you wide scope for creative excuses and may prove useful in other aspects of life.

e) Your catch will be edible (unlike freshwater fish, which taste like a dead dog boiled for two hours in polluted water).

Sea angling has three distinct branches, and each demands special tackle. Boat fishing involves hiring an ancient trawler for the day, generally with friends because of cost. The skipper anchors several miles out and tells you: "This is a good spot." It is identical to the rest of the sea and generally proves to be so: that is, you don't catch anything except dogfish and mackerel. You need a heavy rod and reel to cope with tides. Winding in a 1lb weight from 300ft is often more exciting than catching fish. The downside is that you can't get off if you get bored. There is also seasickness. This is like being dead, only worse. Amenities: countless cups of tea in cracked mugs.

Pier fishing is perfect for poor sailors and those who like the prospect of travelling on Japanese commuter trains at rush hour. Expect at least 20 people to tangle with your line during a day. In summer, piers are better for meeting people than any singles club. Don't worry if the pier starts to creak beneath you. You probably have several minutes before the Victorian heap collapses into the sea. Catches are usually mackerel or dogfish. Any old rod and reel will do, but avoid bright orange handlines if you want to be taken seriously. Amenities: Good. Amusement arcades are generally far livelier than the fishing. Food is fine for those keen on chips and doughnuts.

Beach fishing demands preparation, especially if you go somewhere like Southend. Your chances of catching fish are considerably reduced when the water is a mile from your bait. It is free, but you are unlikely to catch even mackerel or dogfish as the fish live far beyond casting range. Amenities: Poor, unless you collect plastic bottles and odd-shaped pieces of wood.

There is one other variety: big-game fishing. This is the quest for fish bigger than you. Unwise unless you are very fit. Generally done in exotic locations such as the Great Barrier Reef, Hawaii and the Bahamas. Hiring a boat costs more than the rest of the holiday added together. Certain fish (mako, great white shark, marlin) may attack the boat. Amenities: Excellent, but not worth the risk.

Anyone can go sea fishing. There are no qualification standards. All you need is a rod, reel, line, weights, hooks and bait. There are thousands of accessories, but these are designed to keep tackle shops in business rather than to catch fish. You don't need electric gumbout driers or a special hypodermic needle to inject your bait with concentrated pilchard oil. Sea fishing is simple: it's only anglers who make it difficult.

In many ways, the sport is ideal for women. In fact, they are probably better at it than men if you believe the theory that female pheromones attract fish. It involves minimal physical effort (I fished one sea competition where a six-year-old finished third) and casting (getting the bait into the sea) takes only a few minutes to learn. Then

again, it's smelly, messy and unglamorous unless you go big-game fishing. And the clothing. If you're at all fashion-conscious, don't take up the sport until Versace designs a tight-fitting, waterproof one-piece with a draw-string hood, quilted lining, and large pockets to hold hooks, with a selection of colours that is not limited to fluorescent orange.

Tackling the tackle

Tackle shops make Aladdin's cave look like the last day of a remnant sale. One American catalogue lists more than 300 pages of items. Get advice from a shop where the tackle dealer goes sea fishing rather than one run by schoolkids while the shop owner is out doing a proper job. Those on the coast are best. Avoid shops that also sell paraffin, goldfish and tins of beans, and those that don't offer fresh bait. The basic rule is: short rods for boats, medium rods for piers, long rods for beaches. Expect to pay about £40, with another £20 for a basic reel. Add £15 for accessories (line, weights, hooks).

Pulling the legs off crabs

Bit gory, this bit. The best summer bait is shore crab, at the stage where it is about to change its shell (a peeler). Remove the hard shell to reveal the soft new crab – and stick it on a hook. If you're at all squeamish, try worms. Ragworms are red with yellow legs and have nippers in their head: lugworms look like a very thin, deflated condom. Effective but equally unpleasant. Fish

bait (mackerel or herring) or squid are the only worthwhile alternatives. In desperation, use cockles, whelks or winkles. You won't catch anything but they are cheap.

Time and place

Well over 100 species are regularly caught around the UK coast. The most common species are dogfish (once sold as rock salmon), which will eat anything, even cockles, whelks and winkles, and mackerel, which will take a bare hook. The best times, depending on location, are winter for cod, whiting and dogfish; summer for flatfish, bass, conger and mackerel. Play golf in spring and autumn.

Fishing with sharks

Holidaymakers, whether here or abroad, will be beguiled by quayside boats offering fishing with all tackle supplied. Don't be tempted if they are surrounded by pictures of huge catches (this is the equivalent of those glamorous women who decorate the outside of strip clubs) or if the tackle is bright orange handlines. Abroad (especially at Spanish ports), keep away from those offering all the wine you can drink free. You have more chance of catching dysentery than a fish. Take the advice of a local fishing shop rather than a quayside pirate.

One for the wall

Yes, there are a lot of sharks around our coast. Some of them are even in the sea. But Cornwall is not the place to go. Try

North Devon, the Isle of Wight or Scotland if you want to catch a shark. A better bet is tope, a shark-like fish that grows to about 80lb. The Essex coast and Wales are very good. There are other big fish. Conger eels grow to more than 100lb (Devon and Cornwall ports are best) while north-east Scotland produces giant skate averaging 120lb. For real giants, go somewhere warm. Exotic locations like the Great Barrier Reef, Mauritius, California and Kenya are favourites for whoppers. Unlikely but good spots include the Algarve, Gran Canaria, the Azores and Madeira.

Cooking your catch

Scale and gut the fish. Dip in batter and fry. Add loads of chips.

Come on, you're spinning a line

Vic Sampson, of Dulwich, south London, is the world's most successful great white shark fisherman. He has caught them to 2,500lb. Greater weavers and lesser weavers, common off the south coast, have poisonous dorsal fins. Several anglers have now cast a five lead more than 900ft. The largest fish caught off our coast on rod and line was an 85lb tunny from Whitley in 1933. Its captor, L. Mitchell Henry, used to practise by pulling his car out of his garage by rod and line. The record fish committee now has a separate list of mini-records for sea fish that weigh less than 1lb.

Keith Elliott is a former national sea fishing champion.



Fishing on the dock of the bay: A keen angler, prepared for another day at the office, casts out at Southend; all you need is a rod, reel, line, weights, hooks and (below) bait Photographs: Sarah Bancroft

How to grab the bait and get hooked

Organisations

The National Federation of Sea Anglers, 44 Bank Street, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2JH. Telephone 01626 331330.

Sportfishing Club of the British Isles: 24, Moorlands, Weston-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 3LS. Telephone 01892 222127.

Shark Angling Club of GB: The Quay, South Loos, Cornwall. Telephone 01503 282642.

Publications

Sea Fishing Monthly, £2.10 is the best magazine.

The road to Southend Pier

My first journey was 35 miles from central London. M25-A13 or M25-A127. By coach: National Express coaches leave London Victoria for Southend on the half-hour every hour Monday-Saturday (occasional service, Sunday). Journey time – 2 hours 20 minutes. Day return price – £5.20.

By rail: Trains leave from London Liverpool Street, three times an hour. Journey time – 55 or 66 minutes. Off-peak day return – £8.40; and London Fenchurch Street four times an hour. Journey time – 50 or 55 minutes. Off-peak day return – £8.80.

JUST THE TICKET: a weekly guide to what's on where for the spectator

CRICKET: Today: Yorkshire v Somerset (Cheltenham). Tomorrow: Surrey v Gloucestershire (Taunton). Sunday: Surrey v Gloucestershire (Taunton). Tomorrow: Surrey v Gloucestershire (Taunton). Sunday: Surrey v Gloucestershire (Taunton).

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PICK OF THE WEEK

TOMORROW: Golf

The 1996 Open

Royal Lytham and St Anne's

The 1996 Open returns to England tomorrow. The world's best golfers play a historic course that has staged eight Open Championships since its creation in 1895. There have been many memorable victories over the years but the first Open at Lytham took place in 1926 and was won by the legendary American amateur, Bobby Jones.

There have since been many great Open winners, but few more impressive than America's Tom Watson. Injury means he will not become the first golfer since Harry Vardon to win sixth Open titles in 1956. In 1969 Tony Jacklin became the first British winner after a gap of 15 years, several of his competitors, notably Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie, are up to emulating his achievement this year.

PICK OF THE WEEKEND

SUNDAY Motorcycling

The British Motorcycle Grand Prix

Donington Park

Thousands of spectators will witness the world's best riders vying for supremacy and vital world championship points. Twice world 500cc champion, Michael Doohan, heads the list for the British Grand Prix determined to repeat his triumph here last year and strengthen his efforts to keep the crown for a third successive year. The Australian Doohan has already won five of the eight races so far this season and has now amassed an impressive 57 points advantage over his nearest rival and Repsol Honda team-mate, Alex Criville.

The only other man to make an impact against the champion this year has been Norihiro Arai who gave the Marlboro Yamaha team their only success this year in Japan. Kenny Roberts Jr is beginning to show some form, while the Frenchman Jean Michel Bayle has been consistently in the points. If Doohan is beaten on Sunday it could well be at the hands of a Yamaha rider.

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Compiled by Alister Morgan

10 racing

Man with time on his side

Ian Davies has his card marked by racing's most respected clockwatcher

"You only worry about the time when you are in jail," the trainer Luca Cuneo said after Celestial Storm had failed to impress on the clock when winning Goodwood's March Stakes in 1985. Chris Wright begs to differ. He worries about the time... all the time.

Wright works for Timeform, the highly respected purveyors of racing data, and is the man behind their computer time-figures, originally devised by the company's founder, the legendary punter Phil Bull. Wright was Bull's protégé and, since Bull's death in 1989, has compiled all Timeform's time-figures.

Whereas Timeform ratings (or any other kind of form ratings, for that matter) measure horses in terms of their performance against each other, time-figures measure the performance of horses in terms of time.

Wright explains: "When I receive the results of a day's racing, the first thing I do is use Timeform's set of standard times for each distance at each racecourse to calculate the raw time-figures that each horse has recorded that day. All races are rated using five furlongs as a benchmark, for which we use a conversion rate when assessing horses of 0.4 seconds equals 1lb and 4lbs equals a length.

"By looking at the raw time-figures and using a mathematical calculation to compare them with the Timeform ratings of the horses involved, it then becomes possible to calculate a

going allowance which tells you what impact the going has had on each time.

"There are other factors to consider. We take Met Office readings on the wind direction and can calculate by vector analysis how much that affects a particular race. For example, a following wind in a straight five furlongs race will have a different effect from that it will have on a race on a turning mile when the field is racing into the wind for maybe four furlongs.

"Moreover, the ground can differ on the straight course from that on the round track. By splitting up such races and assessing them separately, we can sometimes produce a more credible set of figures."

It all sounds very impressive but, while the clock cannot lie, can it mislead? If five races on a card are slowly run, will that not inevitably flatter the one that is not?

"Experience teaches you to avoid that," Wright says. "Recently, I was looking at the results from Musselburgh, where by far and away the fastest time over the day was the amateur riders' handicap in which the winner Swan At Whalley—and the next six home as well—appeared, at first glance, to have recorded exceptional time-figures, 10lb and upwards better than anything they had every achieved before.

"But experience tells you that the chances of a bunch of older sprint handicappers simultaneously improving by so much are extremely remote. In such instances, you use your



The Wright approach: Chris Wright analyses horses solely in terms of their performances on the clock

judgement. A few days later Swan At Whalley ran and was beaten and I therefore vindicated in not giving the horse an exceptional figure at Musselburgh.

Wright says a lot of nonsense is talked about times. Some people think times can only be used when the ground is firm, and comments from TV commentators like, "the ground is rising here this afternoon and the times are all very fast," or it's very soft here and all the times are slow, irritate him.

A time, Wright explains, can only be deemed fast or slow in relation to other times at the same racecourse on the same afternoon. A time can be very fast, considering the ground is heavy, or very slow, considering the ground is firm.

Wright rates the 1985 Derby winner, Slip Anchor, as one of the most exceptional horses he has rated. "He recorded a fig-

ure of 143 at Epsom" he says. Other great performances came from the 1990 Nunthorpe Stakes winner, Dayjur, who notched a 142, and Celtic

"We take Met Office readings on the wind direction and calculate by vector analysis how much that affects a race"

Swing, who was credited with a 138 when he won the 1994 Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster. "He recorded a fig-

Hidden Personality

Now he just sits in his \$140,000 motorhome, strumming a guitar, waiting for the sun to come up, so he can practise, and maybe putting away a dozen chocolate croissants (his breakfast on the morning of his greatest triumph last July).



Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

So, how come Celtic Swing failed to win the 1995 2,000 Guineas then?

"Time-figures, like all factors you evaluate when assessing a future horse race, have to be assessed in the context in which they took place," answers Wright. "Celtic Swing achieved his 138 on soft going over Doncaster's round mile in October, a year-old had been taken into account (Timeform reckon the average two-year-old is 21lb inferior to the average four-year-old over a mile in late October).

The weight-for-age scale informs that a two-year-old improves by an average of 12lb between October and the 2,000 Guineas when they are three the following May, but there are enormous fluctuations within that mean average. Some horses improve by much more, while others don't improve at all

or even deteriorate. That's one reason why three-year-old handicaps don't all end in multiple dead-heats.

"Moreover, while the Doncaster race was run on soft ground, the 2,000 Guineas was contested on a fast surface. No horse is guaranteed to reproduce a timefigure on different going or over a different distance come to that. Hence it comes as no great surprise that Celtic Swing could only manage a 130 (still a smart figure) and went down by a head to Penelope in that year's 2,000 Guineas."

So what are the best betting mediums for time enthusiasts? Well, while he is as susceptible to the odd ante-post punt as anyone else — he has backed Dazzle for the 1997 1,000 Guineas after the filly notched a timefigure of 118 when winning Newmarket's Cherry Hinton Stakes last week — Wright

is particularly keen on all-weather racing.

"The going never varies and the races are usually truly run," he says. "Time-figures are at their most useful when they enable the time student to be one step ahead of his form-book poring, collateral form-line obsessed rival."

On 2 March a three-year-old called Le Sport won a moderate Class E handicap from some mostly out-of-form rivals on the Fribresand at Wolverhampton. Most form students did not have a clue how to rate the form, Wright did.

Le Sport had recorded what, for that grade of racing, was an exceptional Timefigure of 91. When he turned out again in a Class C handicap at Wolverhampton the following Wednesday, Wright backed him at 5-1. Did Le Sport win? Is Michael Portillo a Tory? Le Sport won on the bridle. By eight lengths.

Lottery hits at turf's coffers

Racing's finances have fallen further into the red as the industry continues to be hit by the National Lottery, says the Horserace Betting Levy Board's annual report published today. The report, which reviews the 1995 financial year, calculates the levy yield from betting turnover of £48m — £7m less than had been forecast in October 1994 before the introduction of the Lottery.

Sir John Sparrow, board chairman, said: "The 1995-96

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: No Monkey Nuts
(Redcar 2.50)
NB: Pharmacy
(Doncaster 8.00)

levy out-turn and the scale of profit reductions announced in recent months by the large, publicly quoted bookmaking companies, have made it clear that the industry is experiencing, in the effects of the National Lottery, the worst setback in its fortunes since betting shops were legalised in 1960.

The state of the betting industry was illustrated by the number of shops which had closed during the period under review, the board's chief executive, Rodney Brack said. "By the end of the financial year, the total number of operating shops had fallen below 9,000, compared with around 9,500 at the outset, a decline of 5.2 per cent, well above the long-term trend," Brack pointed out. "Although many of the closures were made by small bookmakers, similar actions were taken by several of the large companies, and those shops that could not be sold were locked and left."

Dazzle's rivals in the shade

Luke Ardley runs the rule over the leading juveniles

Newmarket's July meeting transformed this season's juvenile rankings, as the established performers were eclipsed by Dazzle, the deeply impressive winner of the Cherry Hinton Stakes.

Dazzle stepped up considerably on the debut promise of her Windsor Castle Stakes win at Royal Ascot to beat Ocean Ridge by five lengths in an exceptional time last week. Michael Stone's filly ran the six furlongs more than four-fifths of a second faster than the three-year-old sprint handicap on the same afternoon, while carrying a similar weight.

Allowance for the weight-for-age differential of 27lb suggests Dazzle put up a performance three stone superior to fillies officially rated in the mid-80s. Conventional two-year-old handicapping proceeds via a steady rise in the ratings from a low beginning, until a level of 120-plus is reached towards the end of the season.

In fact, juvenile form proceeds in great leaps forward and equally dizzying descents — the rapid deterioration of Dead-End, who heaten in a poor July Stakes after the promise of his first two wins, is one example. But there is no reason for not rating two-year-olds on the same scale as their elders.

A figure of 131 for Dazzle's Cherry Hinton win is on a par with the best juvenile efforts of Celtic Swing or Spectrum in 1994, and slightly superior to Al-bu-hari's debut win from Mark Of Esteem at the July meeting last year.

None of these has proved quite the world beaters that once seemed possible, but it is still a measure of Dazzle's potential and present superiority to her contemporaries.

INDEPENDENT RATINGS FOR THE LEADING TWO-YEAR-OLDS
121 Dazzle; 119 Ocean Ridge; 118 Al-bu-hari; 116 Grapes; 115 Bahman; 114 Ruffian; 113 Ruffian; 112 Ruffian; 111 Ruffian; 110 Ruffian; 109 Ruffian; 108 Ruffian; 107 Ruffian; 106 Ruffian; 105 Ruffian; 104 Ruffian; 103 Ruffian; 102 Ruffian; 101 Ruffian; 100 Ruffian; 99 Ruffian; 98 Ruffian; 97 Ruffian; 96 Ruffian; 95 Ruffian; 94 Ruffian; 93 Ruffian; 92 Ruffian; 91 Ruffian; 90 Ruffian; 89 Ruffian; 88 Ruffian; 87 Ruffian; 86 Ruffian; 85 Ruffian; 84 Ruffian; 83 Ruffian; 82 Ruffian; 81 Ruffian; 80 Ruffian; 79 Ruffian; 78 Ruffian; 77 Ruffian; 76 Ruffian; 75 Ruffian; 74 Ruffian; 73 Ruffian; 72 Ruffian; 71 Ruffian; 70 Ruffian; 69 Ruffian; 68 Ruffian; 67 Ruffian; 66 Ruffian; 65 Ruffian; 64 Ruffian; 63 Ruffian; 62 Ruffian; 61 Ruffian; 60 Ruffian; 59 Ruffian; 58 Ruffian; 57 Ruffian; 56 Ruffian; 55 Ruffian; 54 Ruffian; 53 Ruffian; 52 Ruffian; 51 Ruffian; 50 Ruffian; 49 Ruffian; 48 Ruffian; 47 Ruffian; 46 Ruffian; 45 Ruffian; 44 Ruffian; 43 Ruffian; 42 Ruffian; 41 Ruffian; 40 Ruffian; 39 Ruffian; 38 Ruffian; 37 Ruffian; 36 Ruffian; 35 Ruffian; 34 Ruffian; 33 Ruffian; 32 Ruffian; 31 Ruffian; 30 Ruffian; 29 Ruffian; 28 Ruffian; 27 Ruffian; 26 Ruffian; 25 Ruffian; 24 Ruffian; 23 Ruffian; 22 Ruffian; 21 Ruffian; 20 Ruffian; 19 Ruffian; 18 Ruffian; 17 Ruffian; 16 Ruffian; 15 Ruffian; 14 Ruffian; 13 Ruffian; 12 Ruffian; 11 Ruffian; 10 Ruffian; 9 Ruffian; 8 Ruffian; 7 Ruffian; 6 Ruffian; 5 Ruffian; 4 Ruffian; 3 Ruffian; 2 Ruffian; 1 Ruffian.

SANDOWN

2.00 Bold Tina
2.35 Isle Of Man
3.05 Harvey White

GOING: Good to Firm
STALLS: Straight course — 5-6; round — 5-6
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 1st low for 7th

■ Light-hand course suited 1st 2nd
■ Racecourse is in the 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st 32nd 33rd 34th 35th 36th 37th 38th 39th 40th 41st 42nd 43rd 44th 45th 46th 47th 48th 49th 50th 51st 52nd 53rd 54th 55th 56th 57th 58th 59th 60th 61st 62nd 63rd 64th 65th 66th 67th 68th 69th 70th 71st 72nd 73rd 74th 75th 76th 77th 78th 79th 80th 81st 82nd 83rd 84th 85th 86th 87th 88th 89th 90th 91st 92nd 93rd 94th 95th 96th 97th 98th 99th 100th 101st 102nd 103rd 104th 105th 106th 107th 108th 109th 110th 111th 112th 113th 114th 115th 116th 117th 118th 119th 120th 121st 122nd 123rd 124th 125th 126th 127th 128th 129th 130th 131st 132nd 133rd 134th 135th 136th 137th 138th 139th 140th 141st 142nd 143rd 144th 145th 146th 147th 148th 149th 150th 151st 152nd 153rd 154th 155th 156th 157th 158th 159th 160th 161st 162nd 163rd 164th 165th 166th 167th 168th 169th 170th 171st 172nd 173rd 174th 175th 176th 177th 178th 179th 180th 181st 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TOUR DE FRANCE: Unhappy homecoming as five-times champion is unable to respond to leader's attack

Riis destroys Indurain's dream

ROBIN NICHOLL
reports from Lourdes

Miguel Indurain's dream of a record sixth Tour de France triumph faded on the Hautacam mountain yesterday, his 32nd birthday, and the eve of his homecoming in Pamplona.

The tour leader, Bjarne Riis, with thoughts only for celebrations in Paris on Sunday blew the race apart, and Indurain with it, making sure that there was no chance of a happy return for the Spanish favourite.

Three attacks in two kilometres left the contenders struggling as Riis drove on, but in the final kilometre he began to waver. He zig-zagged, open-mouthed, but still had 49 seconds in hand over Frenchman Richard Virenque, heading for a hat-trick of polka dot jerseys as the best in the mountains.

Indurain rode in two minutes and 28 seconds after Riis, and is now seven minutes and two seconds behind the Dane.

"I felt sorry for Indurain," Riis said. "I had hoped that both of us would be on the podium in Paris, and I just hope that he wins in Pamplona. I could see he is not in the same condition as in previous years."

Riis made his big move yesterday after consulting his old

team-mate, Laurent Fignon, twice winner of the Tour. "He told me that if I was feeling very good then I had to attack."

"I felt I had the legs to do it. I was very tired towards the end, but I knew that the others were just as fatigued."

The dismantling of his challenge was accomplished over the final eight kilometres of the 12km climb after 187km over a sizzling hotplate called Gascony where the mercury hit 35 centigrade. A large birthday cake awaited Indurain at the summit finish but the celebrations will be muted. Yesterday's destruction on top of the death of an old friend, his family doctor, will test his serenity. "My morale was broken when I saw the large gear that Riis was using. I knew immediately that I could not follow if he attacked," Indurain said. "I knew that this day would come but I did not think it would be today. It will now be very difficult to win a place on the final podium."

Riis efforts also damaged the chances of his nearest challenger, Abraham Olano. He was 56 seconds behind Riis overnight but starts the tough mountainous stage into Spain, two minutes and 42 seconds in arrears.

The fans will still line the route to salute their favourite as he rides into home territory

but threats from Basque separatists are undermining the homecoming.

Yesterday police in Pamplona, the finish town where Indurain first raced, detonated a four-kilogram bomb found in a garbage bin close to a bank. They had been tipped off, and this incident follows a report in a Basque newspaper, quoting an anonymous separatist: "The Tour will not leave Spain unharm."

In 1992 they burned Tour vehicles including one from Channel Four television, and in the seventies Tour cars were wrecked when a garage was bombed.

"These two days on the other side of the Pyrenees are a homage to Indurain, the Navarrais and the Basques," the Tour director, Jean-Marie Leblanc, said. Before the race more than two weeks ago in the Netherlands he received a letter of threats.

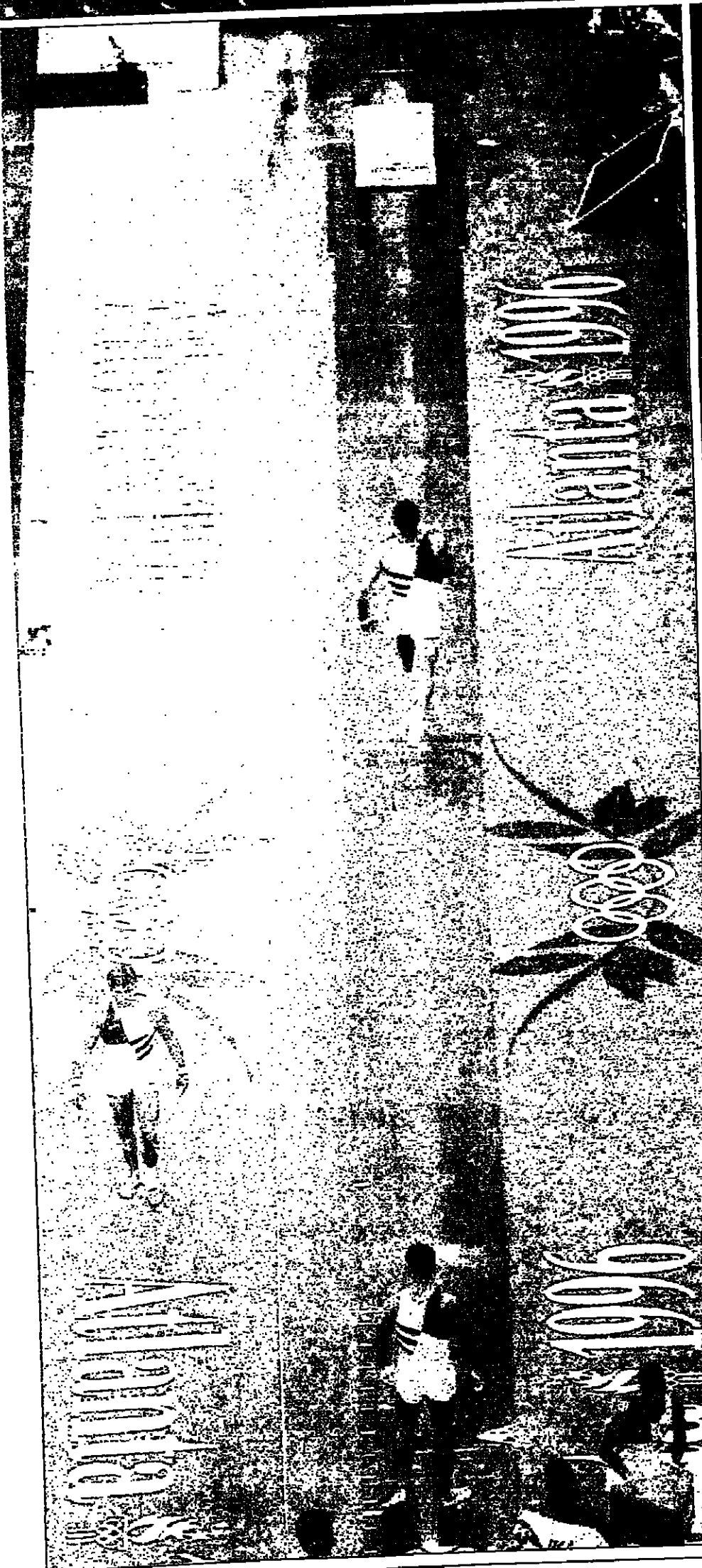
To placate the separatists race commentary during the Spanish stages will be made in the Basque language, and to safeguard the 1,500 vehicles on the race guarded parking has been arranged and others have been advised to use garage parking.

TOUR DE FRANCE 16th stage (124 miles from Agen to Lourdes-Hautacam): 1. B Riis (Den) 4:05:49; 2. R Virenque (Fra) 4:06:28; 3. L Fignon (Fra) 4:06:38; 4. A Olano (Esp) 4:06:44; 5. S Indurain (Esp) 4:07:16; 6. J L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 7. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 8. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 9. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 10. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 11. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 12. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 13. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 14. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 15. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 16. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 17. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 18. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 19. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 20. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 21. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 22. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 23. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 24. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 25. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 26. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 27. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 28. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 29. J. L. Planas (Esp) 4:07:21; 30. J. L. 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Theatre of dreams: Friday (8.30pm local time) sees the opening ceremony of the Atlanta Olympics - the centenary of the first modern games. The Georgia Dome (above) will be one of the focal points as it plays host to both the basketball and gymnastics. For the first time at a major gymnastics championship, tickets were sold at the Dome for yesterday's practice session (far left). More than 9,000 people bought seats priced at \$22 (£14) and \$11 for the men's compulsory routines. An advance sale of 21,700 tickets has been made for today's work-out by the women, rising to 30,000 for their routines tomorrow. A young boy (left) watches the male gymnasts go through their paces in preparation for the start of the sport's programme on Saturday.

Photographs: David Ashdown



Today's hidden personality

The long-hitting golf professional and now reformed alcoholic, who gained fame when he won the 1991 US PGA championship after an overnight drive to Crooked Stick to get a last-minute place as a reserve when Nick Price's wife went into labour, is **John Daly**. Also known as the Doughnut Boy for his fondness for large portions, Daly tomorrow defends the Open title he won at St Andrews.



Sponsors grab the Olympic gold

What some of us have come to regard as normal Olympic service was resumed earlier this week with the simultaneous arrival at Atlanta airport of an extremely large American security force and the French team.

A subsequent log-jam in accreditation procedure that delayed the French for more than two hours and caused a temporary breakdown in international relations, could have been eased unquestionably by utilising an unoccupied section of the Welcome Centre set aside for the guests of sponsors.

That the facility stood idle - "we can't run the risk of not getting the sponsors' people through quickly" was the explanation put forward by a stressed official - merely confirmed the extent of corporate power in the Olympic movement. Symbolic, too, that athletes from the country of Baron Pierre de Coubertin who founded the modern games with a view to encouraging the harmonious development of man, should struggle through behind the army sent to protect them.

Defenders of the International Olympic Committee's commercial activities point out the huge cost of security in Atlanta and other Olympic venues, subsidies that ensure the participation of small countries and funding of a media centre so well equipped that in the words of one veteran reporter "it would be possible to cover every event in these games without getting off your arse."

Maybe so, but the further you go in this sporting life the tougher it becomes to cope with the pace of commercial development. It is a common complaint among most of us older guys but we are right, I think, to believe, even allowing for Avery Brundage's pious amateurism



KEN JONES
at the Olympics

that there were better times in Olympic history.

In the circumstances it is hardly a stunning surprise when citizens complain that Atlanta 1996 has provided opportunities for profiteering. In a letter to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* this week, William R. Grimes writes: "The city of Atlanta, the state of Georgia (including the Atlanta Committee for Olympic Games) should hang the Olympic banner at half-mast, for the outrageous exploitation of the people, participants, visitors, local and international, in making this wondrous occasion one to be remembered for allowable commercial looting... The five Olympic rings should show the letters 'GREED'."

A man who came to fix the lock on my door in student billets barely completed in time to receive an intake of sporting correspondents, prays that energy generated by the Olympics will have a positive effect on the future of Atlanta. "There is no guarantee of it," he said. "If we take on the wrong values, forget that there is more to life than profit margins the Games will have left us with nothing."

Having poked around sport long enough to remember when races were run on cinders, I find a measure of cynicism un-

avoidable. This is especially true of issues that directly involve the Olympic authorities who quite ludicrously imagine unequalled power for social good and improvement.

In meeting old friends you are inevitably drawn into debates about the future of the Olympics and how they will come to look in the next millennium.

There are performers here, members of the American basketball team for example, who do not have to worry over where the next multi-million dollar contract is coming from. Others will be lucky to have a job still waiting for them.

The true spirit of the Olympics has long since been surrendered; no longer the roar of the crowd but the meshing of corporate gears. "They [athletes who use performance enhancing drugs] destroy their health which is the most precious thing they possess," the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said a few days ago.

The fear is that more sophisticated testing methods that can detect steroid use going back three months will not enough athletes to question the merit of Olympic achievement.

A short while ago this vexed issue came up in conversation with an old friend, the freelance sports journalist, Ted Hart, who sprinted for Cambridge against Oxford and turned out in the colours of Leicester, Rosslyn Park and the Royal Navy as a wing threequarter: a fitness problem caused him to decline provisional selection for the 1948 Olympics. Before leaving for Atlanta I promised to call Ted with news of developments. He died soon afterwards. His values, however, are something the modern Olympian could learn from.

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Washington takes on the rest of the world

The Helms-Burton Act could be the first in a series of damaging conflicts, says Paul Rodgers

The lapel pin's blue and white horizontal stripes matched the vertical ones on the trader's shirt, although the communist red triangle and white star poking in from the left looked incongruous on the young City man's suit. "It's the Cuban flag," he explained to his lunch companions. "A protest against the Helms-Burton Act."

This time next year there could be as many flags on the dealer's jacket as there are medals on a war hero's chest. The Helms-Burton Act – a new anti-Cuban law which has outraged America's allies and trading partners – is a faint shadow of the original, world-spanning proposal. But moves are afoot in Washington to restore the provisions trimmed back in last year's congressional horse-trading. If the arch conservatives succeed, it could precipitate the worst trade dispute in decades.

The Act, sponsored by Republican Senator Jesse Helms and Representative Dan Burton, punishes foreign companies for exploiting property seized by Fidel Castro's regime after the 1959 revolution. Much of the American investment then was from gangsters who pumped millions into Havana's hotels and casinos to avoid confiscation under US racketeering laws.

Foreign executives and big shareholders can be barred from entering the US under the Act's Title IV. Even their relatives can be shut out. That would be an irritant. More substantial is Title III, which says foreign companies' assets in America can also be grabbed and "returned" to US citizens who claim to have lost property to the Castro regime.

Almost 6,000 claims, worth an estimated \$2bn (£1.3bn) are outstanding. President Bill Clinton decided yesterday to put it on hold for six months. His economic advisers, including Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, are against the Act, but domestic political reality favours its implementation.

Already, a Canadian mining company and two telecoms firms in Mexico and Italy have been sent formal warnings. Among the directors at Toronto-based Sheritt International to be banned are two Britons, former Bank of England deputy Governor Rupert Pennant-Rea, and Sir Patrick Sheehy, former non-executive chairman of BAT Industries. Other companies are reacting to the pressure even before coming under fire. Cemex, the Mexican cement company, has already cancelled a joint venture with a Cuban partner.

Few people credit the US's high-minded claim that it is only interested in justice for its citizens, 35 years after their property was confiscated. Until last February when Cuba shot down two private planes – often used for dropping propaganda leaflets on the Caribbean island – the Bill had little chance of becoming law. Afterwards it was assured.

Cuban refugees are a major political force in Florida and New Jersey, important states in a presidential election year. Less well known is the support being given to the Bill by American companies that would dearly like to be trading in Cuba themselves. They argue, correctly, that their overseas rivals have an unfair advantage. Some even point to a 1994 report by Britain's Department of Trade and Industry which urged UK companies to "participate in Cuba while the big US predator is out of the picture". The American companies' problem could best be dealt with by a lifting of the redundant cold-war embargo. Failing that, they are determined to force it on everyone.

Helms-Burton, say its critics around the world, is nothing short of bullying. The European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Organisation of American States, not to mention America's closest trading partners, Canada and Mexico, have or will lodge formal complaints. Even the charity Oxfam has stepped into the



Power to the people: Fidel Castro leads his guerrillas into Havana in 1959. A generation later, Cuban exiles in Miami protest at his rule Photographs: Corbis-Bettmann/Network

fray; its Canadian arm has joined with church groups to urge tourists to boycott Florida.

The British Government is fighting Helms-Burton mainly on principle. Extra-territoriality threatens British sovereignty in a much more fundamental way than any transfer of powers to Brussels. At least in the EU Britain has a say. The US is acting unilaterally. And the size of the American market makes resistance difficult.

The Act is the most blatant example of extra-territoriality

since the Arabs imposed third party sanctions against companies which traded with Israel following the 1972 Yom Kippur war. America argued against that embargo, claiming it was a breach of international law. Charges of hypocrisy have not deterred the US from taking the opposite line with Cuba.

Nor is it likely to stop Congress from passing an expanded law – to cover property expropriated without compensation anywhere in the world. Such an act would threaten companies

trading in the former Soviet Union, China and Vietnam. Mr Helms and Mr Burton are drafting the legislation, although it is unlikely to be debated before the November presidential election. A bill targeting firms trading with Libya and Iran has already passed through the House of Representatives.

Britain would be hardest hit by an escalation in America's heavy handed arm twisting. UK plc has a relatively small investment at risk in Cuba, although it has grown since the

Soviet Union collapsed, removing Mr Castro's main economic support. But British involvement in other economies which the Republicans want to penalise is substantial. And as the largest single source of direct foreign investment in the US, Britain has the most assets available to be seized.

The amount of damages that could eventually be claimed stretches into the hundreds of billions. Like Helms-Burton, it would be available not only to people who were American cit-

izens at the time their property was seized, but to those who immigrate. It would allow German aristocrats to take out American citizenship and sue British companies for estates that were collectivised by the East German regime and not returned after re-unification.

The immediate fight is taking several forms, from appeals to international courts and referrals to multilateral trade bodies to blocking laws – like Britain's 1980 Protection of Trading Interests Act – which

stop domestic companies from complying with US legislation. Some companies are dodging the conflicting rules by setting up subsidiaries in places like the Cayman Islands to carry on their Cuban trade for them. Still others are banking on the Helms-Burton fervour dying down after the election. America's real interests will then prevail, they argue. President Clinton's decision yesterday will be seen as a signal of America's willingness to be reasonable.



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Freedom would save the World Service

The BBC World Service should be hived off. That is a recommendation likely to be read askance by those who were persuaded by John Tusa's typically robust defence on these pages recently of a broadcasting service he passionately loves, and which, he claims, has 140 million listeners around the globe. Yet it is a suggestion, we believe, that would save the essential and precious qualities of the World Service, while simultaneously giving John Birt, the BBC's director general, all that he would wish in his struggle to streamline the corporation and its finances.

We are not talking about auctioning shares in BBC World Service plc (although that might allow the service's many admirers to put their money where their mouths are). Instead, the proposition is that the BBC World Service be established as an independent corporation, free to contract with the BBC and anyone else to supply it with world news. A BBC World Service Act could make crystal-clear its freedom from political interference – unlike the mainstream BBC.

The ambiguous relationship that persists between the BBC governors, its politically appointed chairman and the government of the day remains one of the most worrying aspects of this occasionally maddening and perennially fascinating British institution. The World Service would be healthier out-

side. There is no reason to prevent it continuing to use the BBC tag. It would be easy to organise a transfer of the assets of the service to a board of governors. John Tusa might even be its chairman, provided he brings in some top-flight personnel and finance managers.

The BBC World Service actually has no organic links with the BBC's production centres in television or radio – which is the gist of Mr Tusa's case. It is a different animal altogether from the BBC's Worldwide Television. It is not even statutorily a part of the BBC. It is a non-departmental public body. Its finances are separate: the vast bulk of its income comes from the Foreign Office grant. Its journalistic culture is palpably different, as anyone who has been to Bush House to taste that marvellous polyglot atmosphere can testify. Its highly prized independence rests on the faith of its listeners that they are being treated as adults capable of hearing truthful accounts. That quality does not need John Birt, Sir Christopher Bland or proximity to Broadcasting House: it does need a positive sense of the World Service's purpose and virtues which would, we believe, be better guaranteed by its standing outside.

The official line from Bush House is that quality of news coverage would suffer if the World Service could no longer call upon the (domestic) BBC's

foreign staff. But what is to stop an independent BBC World Service contracting with the BBC to buy in reports and feeds as needed – would not that fit very well with the contract culture introduced by John Birt?

Indeed hiving off the World Service ought to make sense to the Birtians. The director general of the BBC attracts extraordinary criticism – all the more extraordinary in that his critics often fail to identify the specific failings in output for which he is allegedly responsible.

The BBC's annual report, quite rightly, blows the corporate trumpet

over some recent programming successes, notably in popular television, though it is rather puzzling to see Mr Birt somehow claiming proprietary rights over Ms Jennifer Ehle's cleavage.

But Mr Birt does have one signal failing, and it is an intellectual one: he has never convincingly argued in public why his admirable project of instilling cost-consciousness and direction into the loose baggy monster that is the BBC requires the organisation's existing boundaries to be maintained. This is not to rehearse tired arguments about Radio One, though anyone who regularly listens to the immensely enter-

taining but immensely self-interested Chris Evans will ask themselves what scintilla of public interest there is in any of this, bar the traffic reports and time checks. Any clear-eyed look at the extent of the BBC would conclude that local radio, for example, as well as the World Service, would be better off outside the broadcasting empire.

Mr Birt works by formulae. Chief among them is the idea of separating production from commissioning, as a way of better displaying costs. Thus the World Service is set to become a purchaser of programmes the bulk of which are to be provided by News and Current Affairs. But the alternative is to give the World Service autonomy. It is already a "cost centre" – runs its own budgets. Let it decide, within the limits of its revenue-raising capacity, where and what programmes and reports it wants, and where it wants to buy them. If it wants to use the BBC's Moscow bureau, fine; if it wants to use a feed from the Americans or Deutsche Welle, why not?

Tusa romance and Birt logic come together. Free the World Service. That of course solves none of its pressing operational questions, the main one being whether it can secure revenue additional to its Foreign Office grant, allowing it to expand, to introduce its style and qualities to new audiences, to new parts of the world. There is no point in pussy-footing. The issue is

whether the service can and should take advertising, without corrupting its peculiar and peculiarly special culture of news and commentary on the affairs of the world. Resolving that issue – and the ever-present question of the World Service's independence from the government of the day – are not going to be made harder by its separation from the BBC. They may actually be made easier.

In dreams, I drive with you

"Nice car. Wanna show me what it can do?" A husky-voiced woman slips from the shadows and slithers into the car. We've all seen the advert: the punch line is that she's his wife. But the Cowie group thinks women dislike it, preferring safety to sex. Nonsense. Women don't like the "Nice car" ad because it's a male fantasy. When they get their own fantasies, it's different. Nissan owners stick pins in voodoo dolls. Ponto drivers swerve between their boyfriends' prize possessions. And Ruby Wax stuffs her Vauxhall full of obedient men. We get quite enough sensible adverts for soap powder and supermarkets. Car ads are for dreaming. Give us Ruby and Nicole over the Persil housewife, any day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Face to face with Ulster's politics of fear

Sir: Your leading article (16 July) rightly throws out a challenge to those of us in Northern Ireland who want peace but seem to do too little. I live comfortably as an early-retired professional on an inherited Protestant farm. Last Tuesday morning I left my drive to find the road blocked by seven Orangemen. They were not neighbours. One had a mobile telephone and was obviously linked to something much more powerful than his besotted platoon.

The RUC were there, courteous as usual, but as spectators. These seven were blocking the approach to one of only five bridges across the Lower Bann. I was incensed to see hundreds of people turning, mostly in quiet anger, and abandoning their planned route. I parked my car and invited the nearest policeman to join me as I made a strong verbal protest to the Orangemen about the violation of my right to go about my lawful business. I was asked, in menacing tone, was I "a Brother". On answering "No" I was told that the Drumcree march was none of my affair and dismissed in terms not for print.

I felt anger and impotence, but above all I was scared. The police were merely onlookers, clearly under instructions not to interfere. The Orangemen were behaving like some dictator's army. My home was just behind the wall. My worry, and that of my family, was what this exchange, which would have been innocuous in Surrey, might provoke. I am a known member of the Alliance Party. My house was not flying the Union Jack. Although in English terms I had hardly lifted a finger of protest I felt real fear, and not for the first time, from my own Protestant community.

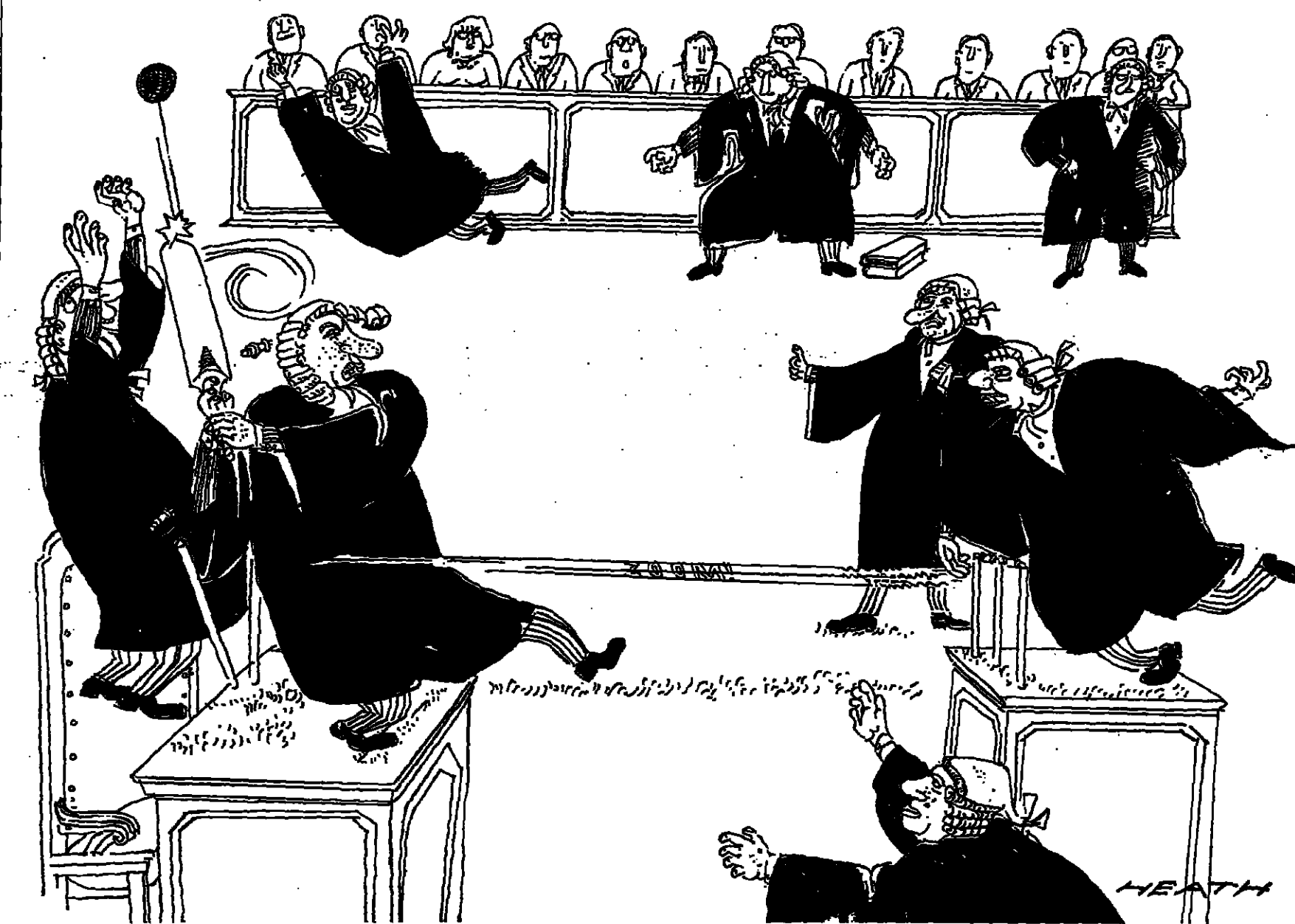
Why such fear? Because Northern Ireland politics and daily life on both sides are fuelled by fear.

What we saw last week was as predictable as a bullfight. The invisible matador in the Drumcree bullring was, of course, Mr Adams. He had plenty of notice. We had all been warned for nearly a year that the Orange bull was preparing to fight at Portadown. And when the green cape was dangled on the Garvaghy road the bull behaved exactly as programmed.

It is all too easy, in Ireland, to start and continue chain reactions of violence. The problem is that the rest of us are as powerless as a crowd at a bullfight. This may seem pathetic to our patient countrymen in Great Britain. But a peace-talking matador with an army at his back is as frightening to the loyalists as the Orange Order in civil disobedience mode to nationalists. A bull looks very different when you can smell the breath of his rage.

Adams, Trimble and Paisley are fearmongers. They have had a good week. Until the Unionists muster enough self-confidence to tell a green cape from a nuclear warning and to talk to Sinn Féin rather than charge to its tune I and thousands of others in Northern Ireland will continue to live in fear. That will not, of course, happen until the bombs and bullets secreted in the matador's cape have been put aside.

The key next step is for the joint managers of the Irish bullring complex, Sir Patrick Mayhew and Dick Spring, to stop their squabbling and decide how to deal



strategically with the Sinn Féin matador and the Unionist bull. Until then I and thousands of others will do our pathetic best to earn your continuing patience, for we can do little else in the face of such skillfully orchestrated fears.

GIL WARNOCK
Ballymoney, Co Antrim

Sir: The mass demonstration of Orangemen, and their success, at Drumcree showed to the world what the British had created in Northern Ireland. A Frankenstein monster that they no longer have any control over.

Perhaps it could be quelled by telling the truth, that the whole world knows, to the Ulster Protestants:

We "planted" you in Ireland centuries ago from Scotland. You were anti-Catholic. Being masters of the doctrine of "divide and conquer" we exploited your religious bias for our own ends. When we lost part of Ireland we had to redouble our efforts in encouraging you. We wanted to hold on to the Belfast shipyards and the factories that were English-owned. You were a source of cheap labour; you accepted for decades wages lower than your English counterparts.

Your culture is a myth that we created, used and exploited.

T KENNEDY
Chester

Sir: Kevin McGimpsey (letter, 15 July) asks, "Why is the [loyalist] child unable to grow up and mix with its neighbours?" The answer is that the neighbours keep throwing bombs at it. So far it has shown restraint in not throwing them back.

JOHN BARKER
London SW19

Safe cycling on Red Routes

Sir: T F Taylor (letter, 16 July) incorrectly presents cycling on London's Red Routes as dangerous.

In fact Red Routes include many measures to make cycling safer, such as new cycle lanes, special crossing points for cyclists and advance cycle areas at traffic signals. All these features give cyclists their own space where they are protected from other traffic on some of London's busiest roads.

Around £8m will have been spent on cycle facilities by the time the Red Route network is fully operational in 2000. In the past year alone I have introduced 25.5km of new cycle lanes. I am also funding improvements at many of the junctions between Red Routes and the London Cycle Network, which offers cyclists alternative routes through London.

As for the challenge to Red Route designers to cycle along their own roads, this is taken up on a daily basis by some 12 per cent of my staff. Our own cycles are also used for regular surveys of conditions on the Red Route network. As a cycle-friendly employer I naturally provide shower, changing and secure parking facilities for cyclists.

DEREK TURNER
Traffic Director for London
London SW17

Sir: Are not the dangers of cyclists on pavements more perceived than

real? (Letters, 12.13, 16 July) The push-bike is a fickle machine and easily upset. Cyclists take very good care not to touch anything when riding.

On average cyclists cause fewer than five fatalities per year; motorists cause about 4,000, including some 200 cyclists and 1,500 pedestrians.

MARTIN MOTTRAM
Salisbury

Tax cuts and tax collection

Sir: The Government's aim of reducing public expenditure and cutting the size of the public sector in order to fund tax cuts (report, 15 July) fails to take account of the fact that cutting public sector jobs in areas such as tax and revenue compliance cuts the amount of tax collected.

Recent reports have indicated a £7bn shortfall in projected tax revenue whilst at the same time 2,000 jobs are being cut in the Customs and Excise VAT inspectorate and 12,000 jobs in the Inland Revenue.

The Government cannot have it both ways. An investment in jobs in the area of tax compliance would not only pay for itself but would prevent the need for further cuts in much-needed public services.

CLIVE BROOKE
JOHN SHELTON
Joint General Secretaries
Public Services Tax
and Commerce Union
London SE1

Shutdown at Sizewell B

Sir: Your coverage of British Energy's privatisation was marred by the references to "news of Sizewell B's closure ... because of safety concerns" (15 July).

First and foremost, there are no safety concerns. The discovery of one or two failed fuel pins at Sizewell B is neither unexpected nor worrying – around the world such a failure rate is regarded as normal and it does not alter our expectation that Sizewell's first statutory outage will be completed on schedule. Furthermore, the "news" of what is in fact a scheduled statutory outage was first announced months ago; it's in the prospectus.

You also referred to "two further closures of AGR stations". Perhaps you would allow me to put the whole thing into context. Apart from the two short inspection outages – purely precautionary – all the British Energy reactors currently shut down were scheduled to be shut down for routine inspection, maintenance, repair and refuelling during the summer season when prices are low. As far as we are concerned, that's business as usual – safety first but with commercial consideration important too.

Dr ROBERT HAWLEY
Chief Executive
British Energy
Edinburgh

British warships stranded abroad

Sir: Ever since Mr Major announced the return of the Stone of Scone to Scotland there has been discussion of the return of other historic artefacts. Egypt has asked for the return of the Rosetta Stone. But there are numerous British artefacts in foreign museums or still in use in foreign countries.

The Historic Warship Preservation Society was set up to preserve ex-Royal Navy Second World War warships. There are very few remaining. Two are HMS Zenith (Z Class destroyer) and HMS Whimbrel (Black Swan Class frigate). Both are in the Egyptian navy as training ships. When we asked about the possibility of purchasing them when they are no longer of use to the Egyptian navy the answer was unhelpful in the extreme.

These ships are the last of their classes and are parts of our nautical heritage. If when their navy no longer needs these ships they send them to the scrapyard we should not return any artefacts to them.

CHRIS TANKARD
Chairman
Historic Warship Preservation Society
Newquay, Cornwall

Birtspeak

Sir: Your report on the BBC World Service (16 July) quotes John Birt as saying, "People talk about the World Service like it's a statue in the garden which needs preserving." If the quotation is accurate, it certainly needs preservation from Mr Birt's version of the English language.

WARWICK HILLMAN
Pinner, Middlesex

Towns need their own forests

Sir: Your report "Planting trees may worsen droughts" (9 July) made no reference to the benefits of trees in relation to water resources. Others will no doubt argue the merit of more trees in the countryside. There is a clear case for more trees in towns.

Much of the land surface has been sealed with tarmac, or concrete. Rainfall is almost instantly dispersed, and picks up a host of chemicals in the process. This polluted surge of storm water can cause all kinds of problems for streams and rivers. Trees in towns are known to play a vital role in reducing this problem.

Other benefits trees can bring to towns include air pollution amelioration, shelter, energy conservation, enhanced property values and wildlife conservation. The Government is seeking to double the nation's woodland cover. Our work has shown that there is a significant amount of land available in towns where new trees can be grown. We should focus some of our effort on the urban forests of the future.

NERYS JONES
Executive Director
National Urban Forestry Unit
Great Barr, West Midlands

Sir: Rob Kent observes (15 July) that Naomi Cohen of the Jewish National Fund neglected to mention environmentally hostile activities in the Palestinian Territories. Mr Kent also left a good deal unsaid.

From June 1988 when the PLO declared an "Arson Day", calling on its supporters to set fire to Israeli farmland and forest, there was widespread devastation to woodlands. In 1992 over 150,000 trees in the Judean hills were torched, and in the Carmel Nature Reserve animals such as gazelles and antelopes were trapped when the whole area was set on fire.

Israel's response was to plant more than 3 million saplings to replace the dead trees and to afford new areas. The Holy Land has been ravaged by wars and laid waste by neglect over millennia. Let us hope that the future holds a peace which will allow the land to flourish and will bring prosperity to all its inhabitants.

Ms R I HART
UK Member, Society of the Protection of Nature in Israel
London NW11

Royal divorce dilemma

Sir: Elaine Storkey ("Synod breaks church silence on royal divorce", 15 July) will find that she has a good deal of support within the Church of England.

It is all very well for constitutional experts to say that Prince Charles's divorce and possible remarriage will not prevent his being Head of the Church. However, each time Anglican clergy take up a new post they must swear to "be faithful and bear true allegiance" to the Queen and her successors. If significant numbers of clergy find themselves unable to swear allegiance to a divorced (and possibly remarried) adulterer who is unhappy about being Defender of the Faith, the Church will be in difficulties.

The Rev JANET H FIFE
Preswich, Greater Manchester

Sir: They say marriage is a lottery. It looks as though the Princess of Wales has scraped it.

TONY FEGAN
Liverpool

A green with spleen

Bruce Ames is not your average environmental scientist. He believes pollution is no more than a piffling threat to mankind and even that smoking may be good for Britain as a whole. But he's just joking ... isn't he? He talked to Richard D North

Bruce Ames has so many important things to say, it's a blessing that almost all of them are very cheering. In particular, he believes that man-made chemicals are at most a trivial cause of cancer.

"They're simply a red-herring," he says. "The average American family pays about \$7,000 a year because of various regulations, and half of that comes because of the Environmental Protection Agency. We are regulating residues of synthetic chemicals when they occur at levels tens of thousands of times less than naturally-occurring chemicals which are in every cup of coffee."

He is as robust on the latest environmental scare: men and women may be receiving man-made "gender-bending" oestrogenic chemicals, but they really don't seem to matter he says.

Lean, whiskery and wearing the kind of floppy black bow-tie one expects of a late 19th-century gunslinger, this Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, is a striking figure. He is also very funny. He reminded me of "Prof" Irwin Corey (always billed as The World's Foremost Authority), the vertiginously hilarious stand-up comic who regaled The Establishment club in the States.

But Ames is the genuine article: "I'm half a biochemist and half a geneticist," he says. His work is amongst the most cited in the literature, he is a member of the American National Academy of Sciences, and is in London to pick up the Messel Medal from the Society of Chemical Industries.

It is no wonder that he should be fêted at the Institute of Economic Affairs, where he was speaking recently. If environmentalists have one preoccupation in common it is a generalised dislike of industrial capitalism and a generalised affection for regulation. "There is politics in all of this. I think people on the left tend not to like industry; they think of themselves as working for altruism whilst industry works from greed. And the right tends to feel that bureaucrats are working in their self-interest," says Dr Ames.

If one had time for only one of his insights, then it would

have to be this: eat your vegetables. He suggests there is an evolutionary explanation why every mother has always known the power of this rubric: "The tribes whose mums didn't tell their kids to eat up their veggies died out."

Oddly, and more certainly, it is now known that plants make their own pesticides, and that there are far more of these in our diet than the man-made kind. All the same, it is obvious that vegetables and fruit are useful prophylactics.

"The quarter of the US population that eats least of them has a doubled risk of most cancers and heart attacks compared with the quarter eating the most," says Dr Ames. Indeed, even a heavy smoker who eats vegetables and fruit halves his or her risk of lung cancer (although smoking will remain a large risk).

Of course, it is not clear that it is socially responsible to give up smoking. Dr Ames made a quick detour during his talk to suggest that one should "smoke for Britain" in the sense that a shortened life was cheaper for the welfare and health services. It was a joke, but its larkiness is of a piece with his understanding that ecological life is full of ironies and paradoxes. Amongst them is the idea that many environmentalists want pesticides banned or made expensive; this would make it even less likely that poor people would eat more of the food-stuffs they most need.

It is the Gradgrind skills of number-crunchers that reveal to us the growth in well-being so many of us find hard to believe. As men and (especially) women nearly everywhere in the world live for longer and longer, it is becoming more and more clear that rates for almost every sort of cancer (except in the lung) are steady or falling. "The idea that there is a cancer epidemic is just a lie," says Dr Ames.

Breast cancer is not rising. Stomach cancer is falling. "We're doing something right there, but we don't know what," says Dr Ames. It is true, however, that more people now die of cancer than ever before; but that is because they now live long enough for that to become the case. "We need the Third World to get rich enough to live long

enough to die of cancer, like us". This is the sort of data he gains from epidemiologists. He keeps in touch with two of the most celebrated: Sir Richard Doll and Richard Peto at Oxford University, who demonstrated the seriousness of smoking years ago, and have since demonstrated that man-made pollution simply cannot compete with tobacco and a lousy diet – and

genetic bad luck – when it comes to early death. Sir Richard thinks that up to 3 per cent of fatal cancers may be caused by pollution, but not more.

Dr Ames says: "I think the figure is nearer 1 per cent. But that's mostly dirty air, for instance. I think chemical pollution is really even more trivial." But his contribution is especially to explain why it is likely that man-made chemicals are having at best a minute effect.

Thirty years ago, he researched various food additives to see if they might be carcinogenic. In the process, he invented what came to be called the Ames test. Using chopped rat's liver as a medium, he tested whether chemicals damaged DNA cells: their being mutagenic was for years thought likely to be a nearly perfect proxy for their being carcinogenic. The test remains extremely useful and has saved the lives of thousands and probably millions of laboratory animals because, as Dr Ames says, "A little rat's liver goes a long way".

Over the years, Dr Ames became sceptical of the usefulness of much live-animal cancer testing. Put simply: the high doses involved cause cancer rather than reveal it. But the really shattering revelations came when he realised that half the chemicals tested on live

"The existence of masses of long-lived humans is a modern phenomenon," he says. It happens that many animal biological processes oxidise cells: in rats the process happens eight times quicker than in humans, so they live short lives.

In humans, the process is

'We regulate residues of synthetic chemicals when they occur at levels tens of thousands of times less than naturally-occurring chemicals in every cup of coffee'

animals were showing as carcinogenic, and that was true whether they were natural or synthetic.

All this would be frustratingly incomplete without some better explanation of why people do get cancer. Dr Ames believes we live long enough for a natural (and mutagenic) process of oxidation finally to do us in.

However – to come full circle – vegetables and fruit are great anti-oxidants and can help to delay death. They also give us many other cancer-delaying micronutrients. There's no need for faddy eating, by the way: "Just five portions a day of fruit or vegetables, that'll do it," says the good doctor.

And those gender-benders?

Dr Ames says: "I think the campaigners are making exactly the same sort of mistakes they made with cancer. They always ignore the natural background level of the chemicals they're interested in."

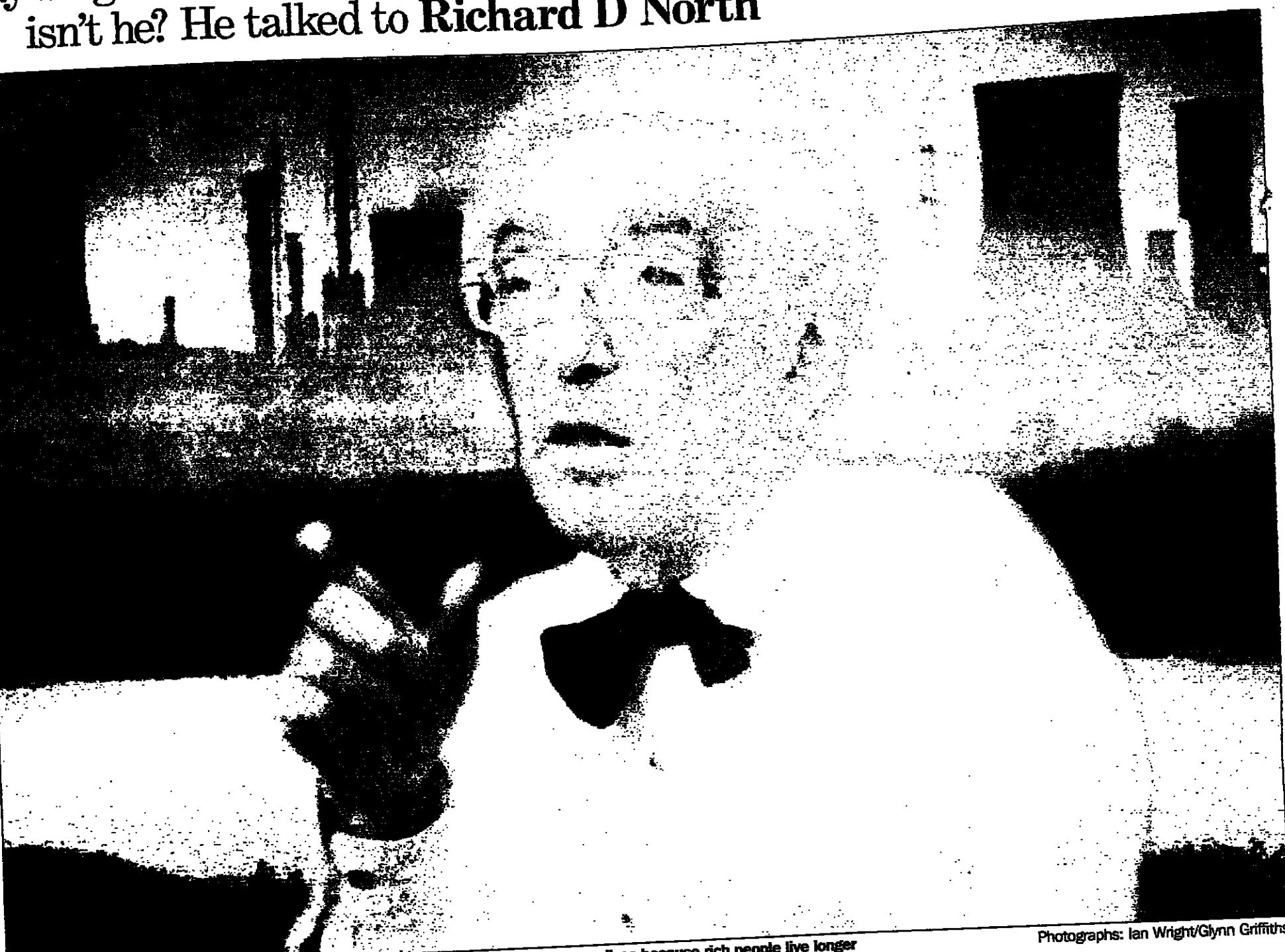
He has severe strictures for *Our Stolen Future*, the recent best-seller that is believed to be about to do for gender-bending what Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* did for cancer. "The book lacks understanding of toxicology: whether the amounts consumed have adequate potency to account for the effect of concern." In fact, he says, synthetic oestrogens are "minuscule" in effect compared with the background

level of hormones in the body, and the plant hormones in our normal diet.

Dr Ames put a nifty proposition to his audience of free-marketers: if lighter regulation and chemicals make people better-off, that'll save lives because we know that rich people live longer than poor ones. Not that Dr Ames holds a brief for industry: "I have made it a rule not to get involved with lawyers or companies". And he doesn't want the rule book thrown away: "It's just a question of not pursuing every chemical down to the last part per billion."

Oh, and by the way: the weak oestrogens in fruit and vegetables may well actually protect women from breast cancer. And another thought: one of the gases in car exhausts is helpful in giving men erections, amongst other effects. It is also very, very mildly carcinogenic. "Just one of those trade-offs you economists understand," said Dr Ames.

Food for thought? I think so.



Photographs: Ian Wright/Glynn Griffiths

Dr Ames: his thesis is that lighter regulation makes people better off, and that saves lives because rich people live longer

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Birt or Burma, human rights are wrong

I had a letter recently from an old BBC World Service hand whom I have never met but who reminded me of a piece I had once written about the BBC.

"I remember you very well," he says, "as do many people in Bush House, for copyrighting the idea that the only institution in the world like the Burmese government was the management of the BBC."

This shook me slightly, as I could not remember having said such a thing. The people in the Burmese government are such a corrupt, nasty, thug-like and dishonest lot of butchers, combining ruthlessness with effortless stupidity, that I feel bad about comparing it with anything. And John Birt does not take students out and shoot them. He has mass-scale firings, but not shootings.

There are people at the top of the BBC regions who are good at getting rid of people and nothing else. But John Birt is not, as far as I know, responsible for physically ridding anyone with bullets.

Obviously, I felt a little uneasy about having compared Birt with Burma.

Not so my correspondent. "Perhaps, if you are thinking of bringing the comparison between BBC and Slorc up to date, my notes may be of some help to you – the parallel is certainly worth pursuing," he wrote.

Slorc? Well, this is the set of initials adopted by the chaps running the Burmese administration. I think it stands for something Orwellian like the State Law and Order Restoration Council. And it suggests yet another parallel between Burma and the BBC – a liking for unhelpful initials and a habit of giving departments names which mean nothing to outsiders and not much to insiders.

However, this would strike my correspondent as trivial stuff. He is after bigger game. He says, for instance, that: "Both Slorc and the BBC are method-oriented, not results-oriented. Both set-ups are riddled with guidelines which are geared to the



Miles Kingston

system, not to the real world. Both the BBC and Slorc describe criticism of themselves as an attack on the institution. ("Slorc says its critics are attacking the country; Birt says critics of his plans for the World Service are attacking the BBC.")

Both the BBC and Slorc have loyalty tests. In Burma, questionnaires were sent to all public employees, asking their opinions both political and otherwise. Those who gave the wrong answers lost their jobs.

"Birt, too, has sent out supposedly 'secret' questionnaires but, in the case of senior

managers, it is obvious who has filled in which. His latest ploy is to make his top managers stand up and front for the new policies – which they must, in many cases, have strongly opposed and must be humiliated that they were not consulted about."

Both places are ruled by secrecy and fear. The Burmese got their fingers burnt when they tried to be open (e.g. promising to hand over power to the winner of the 1990 election and then having to imprison her instead) and the BBC now goes so far as to deny objective truth."

To take a tiny example, when John Tusa maintains that World Service programmes are already made cheaper in-house than other BBC radio programmes and Sir Christopher Bland is asked to comment on this, he merely says that aligning World Service with the rest of BBC radio will make them cheaper to produce although logic dictates that they will become dearer.

And nobody in Slorc or the

BBC dares come out openly and disagree with the system. ("This is not quite true now," adds my correspondent, as World Service employees have openly been organising mass petitions and demonstrations against Birt's plans. Maybe this is the equivalent of Burma's grass-roots democracy movement.)

Both Burma and the BBC have been run by men who dealt with opposition not by listening to it, but by eliminating it, leading to the kind of decision-making you get when the chief executive, who is himself incompetent, has eliminated all managers of ability as his possible rivals.

"This was a tactic perfected in Burma by General NeWin and it ensured that nothing at all happened for many years except for what was ordained by himself. Not all Birt's lieutenants can be yes-men, I hope, but it would be interesting to know why, for instance, Liz Forgan left."

There is much more in the same vein.

Food for thought? I think so.

Triumph of the body fascists

Ruined bodies, a sea of drugs and a dangerous concept of perfection. The Olympics are a celebration of freakishness

The search for supreme physical perfection starts this week in Atlanta. Hitler was right – the Olympic idea is essentially fascist in inspiration and Leni Riefenstahl's film *Olympia* stands as the abiding Olympic image. The very idea of producing a human 'best', a peak of physique, leads to a perverse and eugenic view of mankind. It does not celebrate the pleasures of human variety, it celebrates sameness, every set of games narrowing and refining the ideal human frame.

The world of *Chariots of Fire* is far from Atlanta, where no healthy strapping young men will tear off their shirts and run like the wind for fun. Money, sponsorship and a desperate need for gold drives the athletes on to achieve the previously impossible. But cheating is now so widespread that you can hardly pick up the telephone and talk to anyone in the athletics world who does not think that drugs are widely used. Money, nationalism and protecting the Olympic reputation count for more than fair play.

It is widely acknowledged (in private) that drug-testing is a sham, catching only the inept. The tests do not detect the drug EPO or blood replacement, both of which increase red blood corpuscles to hold more

oxygen – at the risk of thrombosis. Nor can they detect muscle-building growth hormones. *Panorama* last night unearthed a 1984 Olympic scandal in which nine finalists tested positive, but mysteriously, the test results were shredded – no one could say how or why. Cheating is endemic because exposure would send sponsors fleeing to other sports. One sports doctor said to me: "Well, what would you do with the old world records, won by people on drugs? You would have to start all over again."

Sports doctors will do everything legal to enhance performance, even though over-trained athletes may later be prone to crippling osteoarthritis. Women gymnasts are in danger of osteoporosis. Weightlifters risk their hearts. There is little research into long-term effects because no one wants to know. What is the sports doctors' moral duty? Sixty East German women athletes are suing their trainers for damage done in the mid-1970s. Perhaps the result of that case will make the athletics world jump.

If these were animals, the vets would have stepped in long ago to forbid some practices. Take the *Tour de France*, three weeks of daily extreme exertion. Steven Downes, co-author of *Running Scared – How Athletics*



POLLY TOYNEE

Lost its Innocence, says some competitors told him that it is virtually impossible without drugs. What we are producing is not human perfection, but human freakishness, doped-up circus acts, not athletes.

The most popular Olympic event, with world-wide television audiences, is women's gymnastics – those enchanting cliffs flying through the air like rubber-spined butterflies. But in a new book, *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*, the American sports writer Joan Ryan exposes another story behind the scenes. Some US parents sign away their six-year-old girls into the guardianship of coaches who bully them into anorexia and bulimia, while pumping them full of diuretics

and laxatives. Overtraining at 30 hours a week, twice what is safe for children, their growth is stunted, puberty delayed and their bones weakened for life. They pop painkillers like Smarties to keep going, despite stress fractures – in Seoul one performed with 22 spinal fractures. One died of anorexia while Ryan was writing. Suicide attempts are common among the failures.

This legalised child abuse dates from 1972, when tiny Olga Korbut leapt a magical back-flip on the four-inch beam. Suddenly women with hips and breasts were out and nymphs were in. Judges mark for body shape as well as acrobatic feats – and the ideal is now as natural as Chinese bound feet. The US women's team in 1992 averaged just 4ft 9in, weighing 83 lbs – the bodies of 10-year-olds. There was six and a half inches shorter and 23lbs lighter than the US team in 1976.

Interestingly, when East German women athletes' gender was questioned as too masculine there was uproar and they were given sex tests. But the de-sexing of these girls provokes no such outcry – quite the contrary. The child-woman has always been a popular nymphet image – rendering women safe, unthreatening and biddable. It reveals

an uncomfortably widespread paedophile fantasy – one that women collude with as they strive painfully to starve their bodies into Peter Pan shapes.

The case of the child gymnasts and skaters is exceptional because they are below the age of consent, lacking any of the legal protection of child performers. But even for adults, the notion of consent is difficult. The inducements in glamorous sports are extreme, the pressure intense. Some athletes will always be prepared to abuse themselves. It is not just damaging to them but to the millions striving to emulate them.

So, when women gymnasts cartwheel onto the screen, a collective spasm of revulsion (as there would be at the spectacle of emaciated performing animals) would be more in order than cooing and aching at the pretty little things. Ditto for the titanic discus-throwers and weightlifters, waif-like runners or, for that matter, top-sided tennis players with right arms and shoulders so over-developed they have to have their right sleeves recut to fit. They are not perfection – but freaks. Human perfection resides in the infinite variety of the rest of us, in myriad shapes and frames and not in the tyranny of body fascism.

Aha! I knew it was you who called

Ann Treneman on the nation's latest obsession

Do you have a secret? If so, don't pick up the phone – 1471 is stalking the land. That is the number for "call return", introduced only last December, and now being dialled a staggering 8 million times a day by Britons who want to find out who called them last.

This facility can be helpful if you suspect someone is having an affair, skiving off work or just plain lying about their whereabouts. There have been cases of divorce after wayward men rang home and claimed to be delayed at work. A quick 1471 showed that they were, in fact, in a pub down the road.

"It's the first thing I do when I get home from work," says one young woman. She is 22 and speaks for her generation: an Ofel survey shows that 80 per cent of people aged 16 to 24 use call return, compared with 50 per cent of those aged 65 and over.

"There is something driven about 1471," says Guy Fielding of Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh. He attributes this to the Zeigarnik Effect – after the German psychologist Elizabeth Zeigarnik – which says that our memories only let go of tasks when they are complete. In the case of 1471, the "conversation task" begins when you realise someone has called you only by ringing back can you complete it.

The embarrassing bit is that we are all floundering in an etiquette vacuum. What is the form when you just can't stop yourself from returning a call but have no idea who you are ringing? "Who are you?" seems a bit much when you have placed the call. And what if you ring someone but suddenly decide you cannot cope and hang up? They ring you back and there is a moment of phone hell.

Saddest, of all is the demise of the romantic notion of telepathy. "Isn't that strange? I've just tried to call you," says the person you are ringing. It's not destiny, though, just digital dialling.

The most explosive territory of all is the 1471 message, "the caller has withheld their number". Who does this? Obscene callers, for starters – and call return has cut the number of these and hoax calls by 20 per cent. Then there are the spies, the cheats, the plain paranoid.

You can block individual calls by dialling 141 beforehand, or you can have all calls blocked permanently. Less than half a million lines out of 27 million have opted for this. Some large companies do so for technical reasons, but the rest are the rich, the famous, the weird and the frightened. Even they can choose to override the block by dialling 1471 before a call. For once with a British utility it really is nice to be in control.

Not so for the scriptwriters. The plot of *Thelma & Louise* would crumble without the frantic attempts to trace calls as they head west. In *Mission Impossible*, the most sophisticated spies in the world try to track a call from Tom Cruise. But why all this fuss when they could just dial 1471?

Art lessons for New Labour

William Morris could teach the Opposition a thing or two about the need to combine politics with culture

One of the strangest shafts of light on New Labour can be found not at Westminster but in the Victoria and Albert museum. Its exhibition on William Morris, the poet, socialist, designer and businessman is a well-timed reminder that politics is about more than public administration, and that politicians who fail to wonder "how should we live?" miss the most basic political question of all.

These days, Morris is remembered for his wallpaper, not his revolutionary politics. His designs are marketed as a cosy, chintzy, nostalgia-soaked "product" – tea-towel work which slots in somewhere between Liberty and the average National Trust shop. But in his time he was a symbol of another sort of liberty.

A socialist with anarchist leanings (he claimed not to understand Marx's theory of value and dismissed most political economy as "dreary rubbish"), Morris was also a symbolist, surrealist, pro-feminist and early environmentalist.

His work is used to reassure us, although it ought to unsettle us. To suggest that Morris has a message for Labour would once have been a banal thought: copies of his *News From Nowhere* and *John Ball's Dream* were among the key texts for generations of British socialists. Today, however, it doesn't seem obvious; it seems bizarre, frankly. Morris's mixture of revolutionary optimism and medievalism comes from a different Britain, a country where the most advanced thinkers dreamed of creating a classless Jerusalem. In 1996 – exactly a century after Morris's death – after Lenin, Stalin, Mao, the collapse of totalitarian communist states and the apparent triumph of the global market, in the age of opinion-poll-driven and unideological parties, how can the cloudy visions of a revolutionary designer and wealthy manufacturer matter at all?

Certainly, we have become stonily hard-headed about politics, treating it as a subject defined by income-tax rates and institutional reform. The

idea that justice, never mind art, has much to do with public life seems more or less dead. Dreams and dreamers have been discredited by what happened to Marxism. Artists, like poets and philosophers – Shelley's "unacknowledged legislators" – have been pushed to the sidelines of society. They are entertainment.

That is certainly the perception of artists and writers, planners and archi-



ANDREW MARR

ects, who feel that Labour, like the other parties, finds them an embarrassment. New Labour has little to say about the arts, and says nothing that is startling or primary. Whereas for Morris and his colleagues, in the early socialist movement, social justice and a grand artistic vision were intertwined. Now they are seen as entirely separate matters.

But this is mad. And Morris shows us why. In the crowded and polluted, struggling cities of a century ago, what the majority of people needed and wanted was not simply higher wages or lower taxes, but good working conditions, clean air, access to open spaces, a certain amount of leisure, useful work and education. They needed the social goods – what we might call a benign environment.

And so do we now. I wouldn't recommend Morris's interminable poetry myself, nor his wide-eyed revolutionary politics. But what I found refreshing, wandering around the V&A exhibition was what Fiona MacCarthy, his excellent biographer, calls his largeness of vision.

She says of him: "He wanted to integrate the city with the country, the present with the past, the public and the

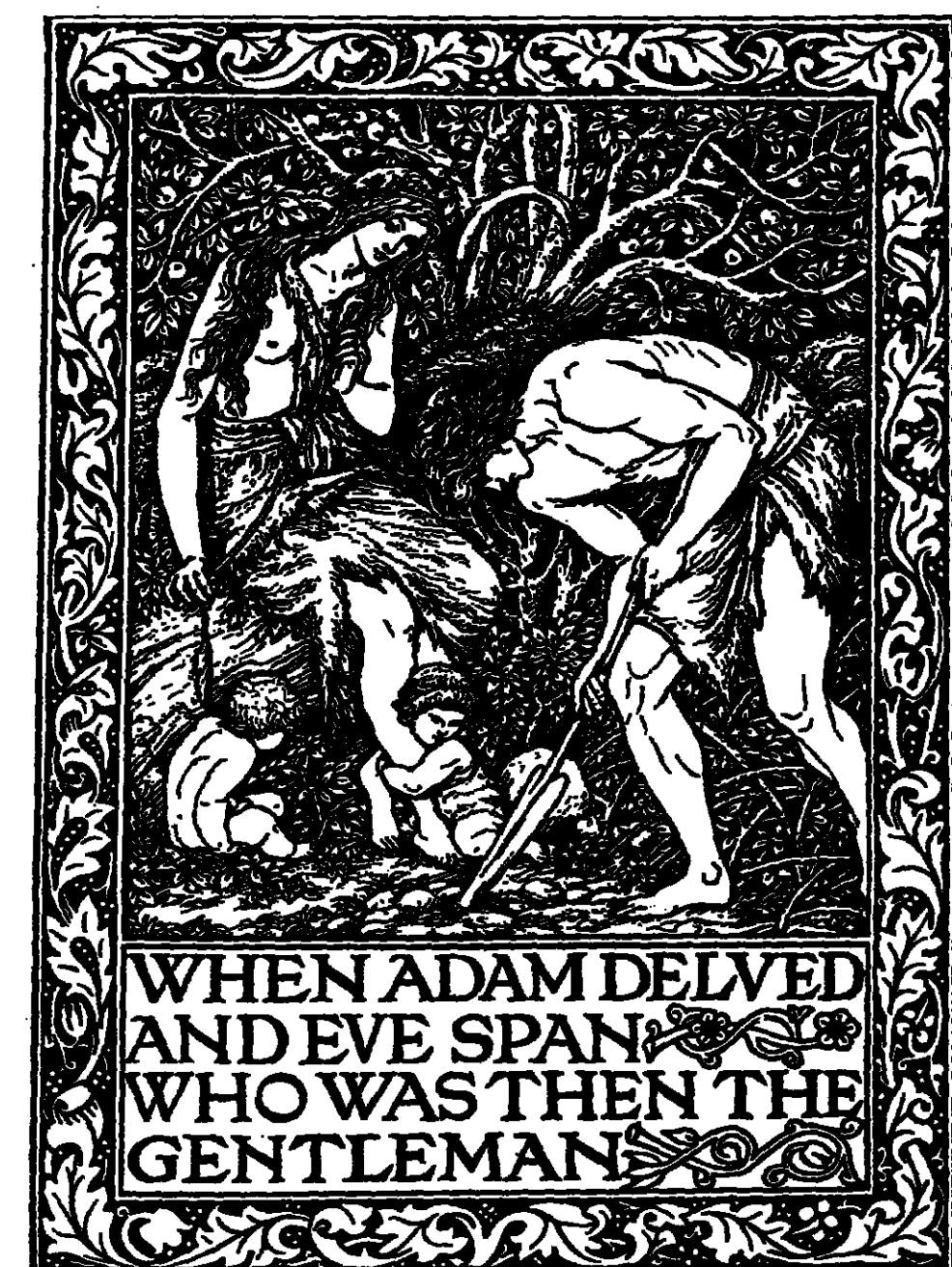
personal moralities. Most of all he was concerned with proper human occupation, whether going under the name of work or play. In the late 20th century, throughout the West, this is our urgent problem. Technological advance has made ordinary skill and modest pride in work redundant. But redundancy of people brings the threat of disconnection from life."

We are returning, in short, to some of Morris's key concerns of the 1880s and 1890s. His environmentalism is an obvious example: one of his last campaigns was an attempt to stop the felling of hornbeam trees at Epping Forest. He was as glowing a Green as any Newbury bypass protester.

Morris was an early supporter of feminism and fascinated by the future of the family, prefiguring arguments about sex and responsibility that rage today. He was as passionate about friendly, small-scale architecture as the Prince of Wales. And in his lifelong interest in training and craftsmanship – good work, well done – he was challenging what was later called alienation. As Britain becomes a nation of service-industry providers and small producers, this too is hardly out of date.

Indeed, these are all among the proper concerns of politics in the Nineties. A political strategy that ignored environmentalism, sexual politics, the use of leisure and radical urban planning – what might be called social ecology – would fail to interest millions of voters. And Labour, which once looked on Morris as a hero and an example, is in danger of doing exactly that. Almost everyone involved in the arts who has been in contact with the Opposition comes away depressed by the lack of interest, the single-minded devotion to a relatively narrow business and welfare agenda, at a time when much of the rest of the country is turning away from Westminster politics.

There is an economic disdain for the full range of Morris's interests that may seem sensible but, I suspect, badly hobbles Labour in its attempts to enthuse and provoke voters. Labour, even New Labour, sells itself



Morris's thoughts were once vital to British socialists

William Morris Gallery, Walthamstow

as the party of the public good, a party which believes there are limits to the market and social goods which must be provided by government. These include culture and environmental works – a fact accepted by almost every European party of the centre-left.

Labour, though, has said very little about environmentalism, libraries, public spaces, the design of housing and so on. It remains, in key respects, the child of the industrial age, smoky and brutalised in its priorities. The work of people such as the architect Richard Rogers, who lives near Morris's Hammersmith base and has devoted time to urban landscape projects and improving run-down estates is a too-rare example of what can be done, given will and imagination.

Instead, it has been the Conservatives, during John Gummer's time at the Department of the Environment, who have been the more culturally adventurous of the main parties. Their agenda has been conservative in every sense, but it has been there and has been developing in government, as Labour's has not in opposition.

Nothing could be older Labour than the early-bearded revolutionary William Morris in some of his cod-medieval moods. But in crucial ways he seems more up to date than New Labour itself. In his optimism, he represents a great slice of politics that the party has largely forgotten. Tony Blair could do worse than to cancel a Shadow Cabinet meeting and take his team on an outing to the V&A.

A flawed policy and a lame duck minister

John Major rewards extremism in Northern Ireland, then urges moderation. A nonsense, says Anthony Bevin

There is an awful flaw in the logic of the Prime Minister's approach to the Northern Ireland peace process.

His thinking goes like this: first, a young generation had witnessed peace in Northern Ireland for the first time in their lives; second, it is time to look to the centre for a non-violent settlement of the Irish question.

In his *Panorama* interview on Monday, he urged the people of Northern Ireland: "Don't look to the extremes, don't turn in temptation to the voices of extremism, whether they are Protestant extremists or whether they are Catholic extremists. Turn to the centre, to the political leaders who are leading for a peaceful future."

If Sir Patrick Mayhew was a strong Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, he would tell the Prime Minister that he is talking balderdash. But he is not a strong Secretary of State.

In spite of official denials, Mayhew told Major last year that he would willingly step down if the Prime Minister felt that Michael Ancram, his deputy, would do a better job. Now we know that Mayhew is not standing at the next general election, and the most

common assessment of his position, across the Commons, is that of the lame duck minister.

As the events of the past week have left the Government with a lame duck Irish policy, it is appropriate. We should have a lame duck to run it.

Major in his TV interview has repudiated any further hope of political rapprochement with either Sinn Féin or the loyalist fringe – leaving the stable door wide open for a return to full-scale violence. Yet on Monday he asked: "Do we want to return to the 25 years of murder, mayhem, slaughter, indiscriminate bombings... Or is it my job, everyone's job, to try and get that put behind us forever?"

A strong Secretary of State might have pointed out to his Prime Minister that this was patently nonsense after the extremism of David Trimble had been so openly rewarded at Portadown when the police allowed an Orange march to proceed.

The Prime Minister and Mayhew say that the decision had nothing to do with them, and that the Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Annesley, dreamt it up all on his own. In fact – and it is a fact – Annesley had repeatedly been

told by Her Majesty's Government that the march was unstoppable, and the sooner he let it go the better.

Major got his first job in government from Mayhew, when he became his Parliamentary Private Secretary in 1981. They get on exceedingly well and Mayhew is one of Major's staunchest allies. There have been moments when Mayhew's sheer unflappability has helped to carry

The Chief Constable was repeatedly told that the march was unstoppable

the peace process through crisis. But the Secretary of State, an honourable man, has been turned into the Prime Minister's poodle.

Mayhew's public stiffness belies a private, personal charm that inspires strong support in other parts of the Tory party. One senior figure said this week that Mayhew should stay to keep out his deputy, Ancram, who was an "appeaser... like all nob's". That

was a reference not only to Ancram's aristocratic background, but to the view that he would have given way to the Orangemen days before Sir Patrick. Mayhew is a well-heeled toff by any measure, but Ancram is blue blood – by such yardsticks are men still measured in Tory circles.

Now the problem is that whoever sits in the seat – Mayhew is the 10th Secretary of State for Northern Ireland since 1972 – it will make little or no difference to the direction of government policy. Major is now clearly calling the shots and, equally clearly, he has tilted towards the Unionist cause.

Major believes that the Orange Lodge was wrong to seek to proceed in the way it did at Portadown, but he also believes that the local Catholic community was "unreasonable in the way they refused to... compromise for a long time on how a peaceful march could have been passed through the Garvaghy Road estate."

If the Prime Minister could have seen the grief and outrage on the faces of nationalist SDLP MPs on the day that the march was allowed through, he might perhaps have put that differently. Yet he is confident that those

same SDLP MPs will be striking deals with David Trimble, saying: "The SDLP have been foremost in recent years in talking about the importance of dialogue". They were also foremost in urging the inclusion of Sinn Féin, who now seem to have been shut out.

If Sir Patrick was the organ grinder in this operation, he might be credited with a remarkable achievement: uniting the right-wing Unionist tradition of the Conservative Party and the nationalist community of Northern Ireland against him.

There was strong speculation among the Tory backwoodsmen on Monday night that Sir Patrick's days might, after all, be numbered. In spite of the strongest guidance to the contrary – Number 10's statement that there was going to be no change of Cabinet in this month's expected reshuffle – there were strong suggestions that Sir Patrick might go anyway. The pity is that his epitaph could now read: "It did not matter if he went, it did not matter if he stayed."

Major should have let him go last year, and let him go with the dignity that was left. Now the policy is in tatters and Mayhew is the fall guy.

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Market jitters: Volatile trading in London and New York leaves nervous dealers braced for another day of wild stock market gyrations

Dow roller-coaster sparks fears of world-wide crash

TOM STEVENSON
and DAVID USBORNE

Fears of another stock market crash swept through the City last night after a second day of wild gyrations on Wall Street prepared the ground for another nervous session in London today. Shares suffered their largest fall since last summer's Tory leadership challenge, with the FT-SE 100 index taking its lead from Wall Street's 161-point fall on Monday to close at its lowest level this year.

After the close of the London market, shares tumbled in New York last night, prompting fears that the bull market of the last two years was heading for a crash-landing. The FT-SE 100 had already closed 66 points lower at 3,632.3, more than 200 points lower than the high point it reached in April. The index spent the day in negative territory, recording an 85.7-point decline by lunchtime and never rising higher than a 45-point fall.

Dealers are braced for further declines today following a second consecutive day of extreme volatility in New York. After trading closed in London, the Dow fell at one point by 166

points, outstripping Monday's collapse, before regaining almost all the lost ground and then tumbling again.

Before the lunchtime plunge, the Dow's early calm was attributed to relatively encouraging economic news from the US government, including a modest 0.1 per cent increase in consumer prices in June, while industrial production posted a solid 0.5 per cent gain in the same period.

But the concerns that triggered a massive 161-point sell-off on the Dow on Monday quickly resurfaced. They included disappointing earnings in the technology sector, the underlying rise in interest rates as well as evidence of a selling trend from the influential mutual funds.

The gyrations reinforced fears that Wall Street may be heading for a bear market after its record two-year ascent. But some analysts continued to caution against panic. "I think that the complexion of the market has clearly changed," Michael Metz, the chief investment analyst at Oppenheimer, said. "But I'm not sure that we are in a crash scenario."

The markets were especially

anxious to see the quarterly results of Intel, due to be released late last night after the close.

Although most analysts expected Intel's figures to be relatively positive, it was feared that any sign of disappointment in them could further fuel the panic.

It is believed a full-blown crash is less likely since the introduction of trading curbs mechanisms in New York in the wake of "Black Monday" in October 1987 when the Dow slid a wrenching 500 points in just one session. The provisions, known as "circuit breakers" are designed to ensure that cascading losses such as those that occurred on that day cannot happen again.

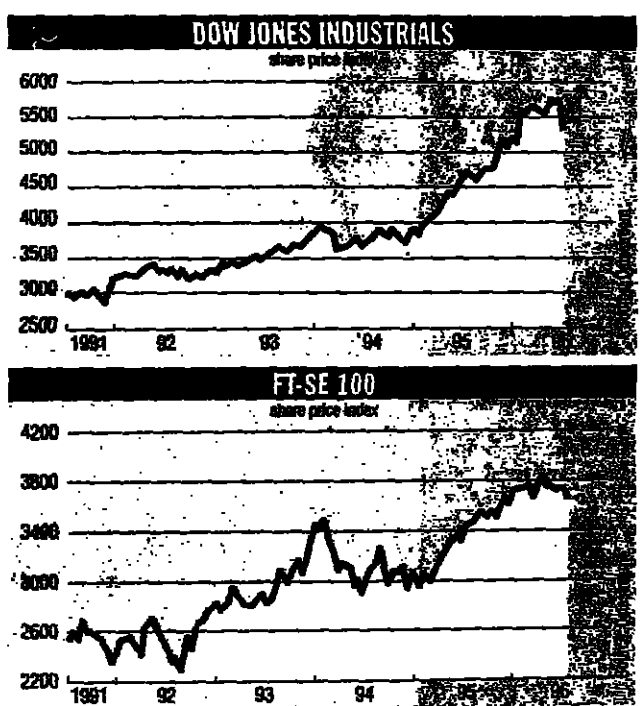
The trading curbs are triggered whenever the market moves more than 50 points one way or another. Programme traders, that can lead to very large movements in the index, are only allowed to resume whenever a tick occurs in the opposite direction of the dominant trend, whether buying or selling. A 250-point drop in the Dow leads to a suspension of all trading for one hour, while a drop of 400 points mandates a halt in trading of two hours.

Market-watchers were divided over the seriousness of Wall Street's correction for other markets. One analyst in London said: "This has been waiting to happen. Wall Street has been overvalued for a while and while the two markets have become decoupled to an extent the bigger the fall in the Dow the more coupled we will become."

Technical analysts said the signs of a big correction had been clear for months. The ratio of shares rising to those falling had fallen sharply in June, normally a sign an index's rise was running out of steam.

In recent months there has also been a marked outperformance by smaller companies, often a sign of a maturing bull market as investors look ever further beyond blue-chip shares for value. In the first six months of the year the FT-SE Small Cap index rose 15 per cent, compared with a flat FT-SE 100.

Comment, page 17



Grim reading: Richard Grasso, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange (left), watching returns from the floor of the exchange shortly before the closing bell on Monday, when the Dow Jones index began to plunge Photograph: Reuters

Biotechnology sector dives sharply

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Biotechnology shares dived yesterday amid increasing fears that British Biotech's mammoth £143m rights issue would be left with the underwriters. The company's own shares dipped as low as £19 at one stage, some 150p below the rights price, but recovered to end 10p down on the day at £20.30.

However, they were one of the few resilient features in the sector. The bigger companies suffered with the rest. Scotia, one of the biggest behind

British Biotech, plunged 44p to 671p. Celltech were down 36p at 509p and Chiroscience dropped 18p to 319p.

The British Biotech issue is underwritten by merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson and fully sub-underwritten, mostly by existing shareholders in the group. A spokesman for British Biotech said yesterday: "The money is obviously guaranteed to us, so we are relatively happy. Obviously we are a bit disappointed that the share price has not held up."

The company announced that directors would be investi-

ing £100,000 in taking up rights, although three executive directors have sold part of their nil-paid rights to take up the remainder of their allocations. Chief executive Keith McCullagh, finance director James Noble and John Gordon, another executive, have sold rights at 10p as a prelude to taking up new shares.

However, analysts remained doubtful last night that the group would be able to complete the cash call successfully. Robin Gilbert at Panmure Gordon said: "The British Biotech issue is struggling and is causing a re-

assessment of people's commitment to the sector." It would be surprising if it gets away, he said. "I am sure there will be a lot of unwilling holders."

Another analyst said sentiment towards the sector would depend on how the Biotech issue went. He said: "We may not have seen the end of this mark-down. I would call it more of a mark-down than a selling frenzy."

Other recent or coming biotech issues were putting a brave face on the affair yesterday. Cambrio, one hopeful, confirmed its intent to float at the end of the month.

Talks bring Hollick close to Blenheim purchase

PATRICK TOOHER
and MATTHEW HORSMAN

United News & Media is locked in detailed talks with Blenheim about buying the exhibitions organiser, though the two sides are still divided over the price. Lord Hollick's publishing and financial services group is prepared to pay.

Sources close to both companies confirmed that negotiations continued yesterday with the two sides still apart on the

issue of price. An announcement to the Stock Exchange could be made within a week.

Shares in Blenheim yesterday bucked a tumbling stock market, rising 15p to 438p, as bid talk again did the rounds.

Takeover speculation has swirled since June when movements in Blenheim's share price prompted the company to issue a statement that it had received an initial approach from an unnamed company.

Reed International, Emap,

Softbank of the US and France's Havas were mentioned as possible bidders, though United has always been seen as the front-runner. It is understood Emap has already ruled itself out, and speculation was growing last night that United had the field to itself.

United's initial offer, believed to be in the region of 400p-450p a share, was rejected by Blenheim's executive chairman, Neville Buch, who is holding out for a bid of 500p-

550p. At the upper end of the range that would value Blenheim at more than £500m. Directors of Blenheim hold about a quarter of the equity while French utility Generale des Eaux has a 15 per cent stake.

However, United is resisting Blenheim's demands to cough up a large premium. "Clive Hollick is not known for paying silly money," an insider added.

Signs that the protracted talks had entered the end-game stage were welcomed by media

analysts. "This has been going on for weeks," one said. "It's had an adverse effect on United's share price and is distracting Blenheim's management from running its business."

Based on house broker BZW's 1997 pre-tax forecast of £43.3m, a 550p-a-share price for Blenheim would imply a chunky exit multiple of 22 times.

Buying Blenheim would be United's first big move since the company was formed three months ago through a £3bn

merger of United and MAI. Analysts say that the logic of a tie-up with United is convincing. Miller Freeman, United's exhibitions business in the United States is strong, while Blenheim is a big player in the UK and Europe.

A 550p-a-share offer by United would be less than 10 per cent shy of Blenheim's all-time peak reached three years ago and would provide the company's long-suffering investors with a face-saving exit.

DTI stands back in BT's watchdog row

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

The DTI will not intervene in the long-running row between BT and Ofcom, the telecommunications industry's regulator, over proposals to increase competition powers before the company holds a crucial board meeting next Tuesday.

The President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, is considering whether to give BT a right of appeal against the plans, which would enable the Ofcom director-general Don Cruickshank to ban any activities he considers to be anti-competitive. But a source said a decision was "not imminent" and would not be dictated by BT's timetable.

The 13-member BT board will decide at next week's meeting whether to reject the proposals, risking a costly and time-consuming investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

BT lawyers are working on the alternative strategy of seeking a judicial review into whether Mr Cruickshank is exceeding his powers as a regulator.

Leading telecoms lawyers have backed the idea, arguing that Ofcom is going beyond the 1984 Telecommunications Act which laid down the regulatory framework. The Act puts Of-

com on an equal footing with the main competition authority, the Office of Fair Trading.

"Don Cruickshank can only go so far in proposing modifications to BT's licence," said David Kerr, a telecoms expert with the solicitors Bird & Bird.

"There is no provision in the legislation for this and it's up to Parliament to decide." He stressed that similar powers exercised by the OFT did include a right of appeal.

Ofcom has linked anti-competitive powers with a new pricing formula which excludes business customers from a price cap, and has insisted that the two issues cannot be considered separately.

The outcome of a court challenge would have far-reaching implications for the regulation of other privatised utilities.

Separately, Ofcom held further meetings with BT yesterday to complete its investigation into allegations of "dirty tricks" against the cable industry. A formal statement is expected from the telecoms regulator as early as today.

Cable operators have complained that ex-directory cable customers had been marketed by BT staff under the controversial Win Back campaign, in a breach of the Telecommunications Act on the use of privileged information.

Restrictions removed on Channel ferry operators

PATRICK TOOHER

Merger talks between Lord Sterling's P&O and Stena Line of Sweden moved a step closer yesterday after the Government finally lifted competition restrictions on cross-channel ferry routes.

But the go-ahead for the two main Dover-Calais ferry operators to compete with the Channel Tunnel by pooling their resources also raised the prospect of an end to

cut-price travel across the Channel. The news lifted shares in P&O, which bucked the weaker market trend by rising 8p to 500p.

Under existing arrangements dating back to 1979 and 1982, Sweden's Stena Line and P&O European Ferries, were prevented from making any fare-fixing, merging or pooling arrangements.

But yesterday Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, released the two companies, as

well as Hoverspeed, from any previous undertakings.

"I consider that competition on the cross-Channel market has changed sufficiently since the Monopolies and Mergers Commission made their adverse findings, such that it is no longer appropriate to hold the companies to the undertakings."

The decision was immediately welcomed by the ferry operators. A spokesman for Stena said it was now up to P&O to approach the Swedish group

with an agenda for talks.

Lord Sterling, while unable to make any immediate announcement about P&O's future plans, said: "We have always said that, even with the strong market growth we are seeing, there is too much capacity, and rationalisation is essential. We can now get ahead with looking at how best to achieve this."

The ferry operators have been struggling to compete since the Channel Tunnel was opened in

May 1994 and Eurotunnel has gradually become the biggest operator of Dover-Calais traffic.

P&O's share of business slipped from 40 per cent to 30 per cent last year and profits at the ferries division fell from £114m to £75m. Stena has 18 per cent of the market, and Eurotunnel has about 45 per cent.

In May 1996 the cross-Channel price war heated up when Eurotunnel slashed fares on the Le Shuttle service by up to 60 per cent. A standard return then cost

£129, which equalled the P&O fare.

Last month traffic through the Channel Tunnel smashed all previous records, with 183,752 vehicles passing through during the month, with the London to Paris and Brussels Eurostar trains showing a 55 per cent passenger increase on June 1995.

Ferry operators have slashed fares and increased sailings since the opening of the Tunnel opened in an bid to win back customers.

STOCK MARKETS						
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3632.30	-66.00	-1.8	3857.10	3632.30	4.11
FTSE 250	4201.00	-90.60	-2.1	4568.60	4019.30	3.55
FTSE 350	1825.50	-34.50	-1.9	1945.40	1816.60	4.04
FT Small Cap	2091.76	-44.54	-2.1	2244.36	1954.06	3.13
FT All Share	1808.18	-34.34	-1.9	1924.17	1781.95	3.97
New York	5244.83	-104.68	-2.0	5778.00	5032.94	2.26
Tokyo	21406.35	-947.07	-4.4	22988.80	19734.70	0.731
Hong Kong	10527.96	-172.15	-1.6	11594.99	10204.87	3.421
Frankfurt	2468.73	-80.74	-3.2	2583.40	2253.38	1.831

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES						
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	3m	6m	12m	Yield (%)
UK 3m	5.72	6.00	7.95	8.23	8.06	8.31
US 3m	5.24	6.10	6.87	6.30	7.05	6.76
Japan	0.47	1.10	3.37	2.92	-	-
Germany	3.21	3.63	6.49	6.76	7.01	-

CURRENCIES						
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	£/A\$	£/NZ\$	£/HK\$	£/SG\$
1.57	2.30	161.00	0.69	0.62	7.76	1.36
1.58	2.29	161.00	0.69	0.62	7.76	1.36
1.59	2.28	161.00	0.69	0.62	7.76	1.36
1.60	2.27	161.00	0.69	0.62	7.76	1.36
1.61	2.26	161.00	0.69	0.62	7.76	1.36
1.62	2.25	161.00	0.69	0.62	7.76	1.36

WORLD COVER

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COMMENT

'Nobody would seriously argue that the world is heading for depression, but the 1929 factor shouldn't be wholly discounted'

After seven fat years, there must a slowdown

Better late than never is a good motto most of the time, but not when it comes to stock market corrections. The earlier an overvalued market returns to earth, the better. In that sense the slide on Wall Street and Nasdaq is a good thing. US stocks never warranted the heady ratings they acquired, and wild gyrations apart (by the look of events yesterday, we could be talking a bungee-jump crash here), if the slide does not go too far too fast, it is hard to see a problem.

There is, however, a rather more sinister interpretation of events. Financial markets are meant to be forward-looking things. The present uncertainty could therefore be about more than just inflated valuations. Although it seems perverse when the Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates to slow demand, the markets are in part anticipating a turn in the cycle, possibly even recession in the US economy. It is too early to predict exactly when, how long, or severe the next recession might be. But it is clear that, after seven fat years of expansion, there will have to be a slow-down of sorts.

A big correction on Wall Street might also undermine consumer confidence in a way that would compound other recessionary tendencies in the economy. Small investors have been pouring money into the stock market as if there is no tomorrow. The inflow via mutual funds reached nearly \$150bn in the first half of the year. This matters to the economy in a way that the much greater long-term investment via pension

funds does not. This pension money can ride out a fall in share prices. By contrast, a drop in the value of mutual funds will directly hit consumer spending as many Americans think of them as roughly equivalent to bank accounts. The vague sense of unease that falling share prices generate could translate directly into a drop in consumer confidence and spending. The level of consumer debt in the US is such that even a small decline in earnings from equity funds could trigger severe belt-tightening.

The October 1987 crash had far less impact on the economy than anybody expected at the time. Central banks eased interest rates to compensate for effects that never emerged, stoking up the boom in 1988-89. Extensive mutual fund holdings are the key reason the correction of '96 might turn out to be worse for the economic outlook than the crash of '87. The nightmare scenario is that it would become like the great crash of 1929, when the losses sustained by small investors helped contribute to the ensuing depression. Nobody would seriously argue that the world is heading for depression, but the 1929 factor shouldn't be wholly discounted.

Why the BBC must try harder

Everytime the BBC makes any kind of corporate announcement, the latest being

the release of the annual accounts, the same old questions are invariably asked; whether the BBC should turn itself into pay-television and radio; why not run the BBC on a fully commercial basis, leading to eventual privatisation? Or should not the BBC be a just a programme producer selling its material to commercial broadcasters and distributors?

Most of these questions are for the time being largely irrelevant, for the Government has decided to keep the licence fee at least until 2001, half-way through the BBC's present charter. That's not far away, however. Any significant erosion of the BBC's market share in the meantime further weakens the case for the licence fee. So for John Birt, who wants not just its continuation but quite chunky increases as well to help fund his launch into digital, the argument starts here.

Judging by yesterday's accounts, he is not making a bad fist of it. The evidence is that the Birt reforms are beginning to work - the Corporation is getting more for less, more programming for less money. With a golden year of production under its belt, it is also making headway against independent television, which itself begins scarcely to justify the term "public service broadcasting."

But whether fear for the future alone can continue to drive the efficiency gains the BBC desperately needs if it is to fight off the ever onwards and upwards march of pay TV remains to be seen. Last year the Corpora-

tion took about £100m out of its costs, which by the BBC's standards is progress of a fairly dramatic kind. By commercial standards, however, it is not much at all. It is less than 5 per cent of last year's expenditure. Compared with the sort of efficiency gains the regulator expects of British Gas, it is peanuts.

Mr Birt is doing well, as his £300,000 of salary and bonuses attest, but he has to try harder. His funding has to grow by a lot more than 5 per cent a year if he is to make a decent fist of digital and outbid pay TV in the battle for audience pulling power. Without the big stick of price regulation, or the even more powerful stick of competitive forces, getting efficiency gains is like squeezing blood out of a stone. But if the licence fee is to continue justifying itself, that is what Mr Birt has to do.

Another soft landing for BAA

The Civil Aviation Authority has again demonstrated its ability to defy gravity when it comes to regulating the monopoly that BAA enjoys over airports in the South-east of England. While every other watchdog in the land is busy making life harder for its regulated monopoly, the CAA is intent on making things easier for BAA by relaxing the charging regime at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

In fairness to the CAA, it must be said

that BAA's charges are absurdly low. There are only a handful of airports around the world into which it is cheaper to fly and if the CAA's latest price cuts are accepted, the already overcrowded Heathrow and Gatwick will become cheaper than even the likes of Bombay and Algiers.

Under the CAA's proposals charges at the overcrowded airports of Heathrow and Gatwick will fall in real terms by 3 per cent while they will rise by 1 per cent at the under-utilised Stansted. In a sane world it would be the other way around with charges increased to ration capacity at Heathrow and lowered to divert traffic to airports like Stansted. Unfortunately airport economics do not work quite like that. The average charge for landing a passenger at Heathrow will fall by about 60p to £4 under the CAA's proposals. But to choke off the never-ending rise in Heathrow's traffic the CAA estimates it would have to increase charges to £50 a passenger. In any event the CAA is precluded from considering environmental issues - such as the desirability of curbing noise levels when setting a new price formula. Since the regulatory regime cannot be used to control Heathrow's helicopter expansion, the Government should consider other approaches. One would be to auction off Heathrow's take-off and landing slots, ensuring a valuable resource was used more efficiently before being added to through the environmentally objectionable expedient of building Terminal 5.

BAA told to cut further £150m from airport fees

MICHAEL HARRISON

Charges at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted are to be cut by a further £150m over the next five years under proposals from the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday, reinforcing their position as some of the world's cheapest airports for airlines and passengers alike.

The CAA is recommending that the owner of the three airports, BAA, limit increases in landing charges levied on airlines to inflation less 3 percentage points from 1997 to 2002. The formula is based on Heathrow Terminal 5 being given the go-ahead once the current public inquiry is complete.

The CAA's recommendations followed a six-month inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which also concluded that there was no case for breaking up BAA's monopoly over the three south-east airports on public interest grounds.

The new formula will reduce the landing charge per passenger at Heathrow from £4.64 to £4.02 over the next five years

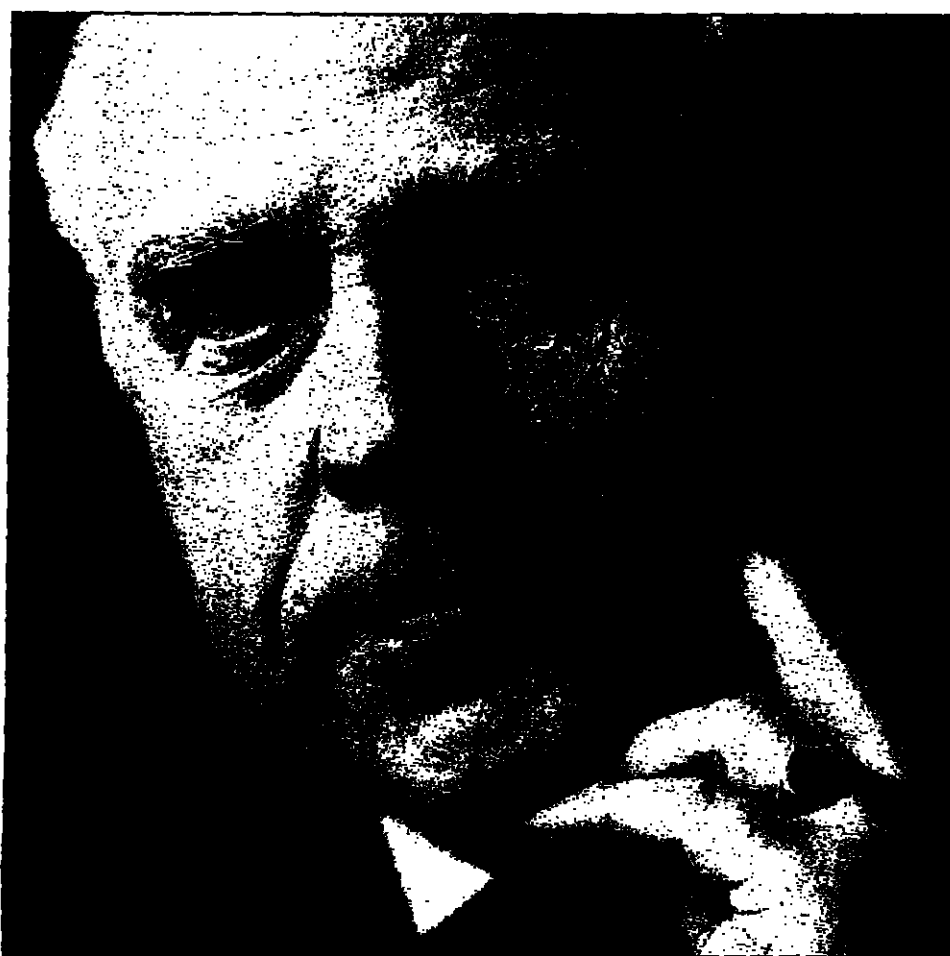
and represents a further softening of the price curbs on BAA's monopoly over airports in the south-east.

Under the existing five-year price control formula, which ends in April next year, the increase in charges has been capped at RPI-X. The charges account for 28 per cent of BAA's £1.25bn revenues.

However the CAA has also recommended that BAA be allowed to raise its charges by 15 per cent over the two years from 1991-2001 to recover £55m of revenue that could disappear if intra-EU duty-free sales are abolished.

In a market dragged sharply lower by fears of a Wall Street crash BAA shares were the star performer, rising 15p to 493p as the City gave the thumbs up to the new pricing proposals.

However, Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, said the new formula, which is in line with the recommendations of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, was "clearly very challenging".



Sir John Egan: New formula was 'less than we asked for'

Photograph: Tom Pilon

He said that BAA had asked to be allowed to raise its charges annually in line with inflation and recoup all the duty-free profits it stands to lose if the concession is abolished in 1999.

"It is less than we asked for and could have implications not just for BAA but for our customers, both airlines and passengers, and also our suppliers, not least because of the difficulties it poses for our construction programme."

The view among City analysts, however, was that the new formula would not jeopardise BAA's £4.4bn investment programme over the next 10 years, the centre-piece of which is Heathrow's Terminal 5.

There will now be a one-month public consultation period, with the CAA announcing its final decision at the end of October or early November.

Airlines that gave evidence to the MMC overwhelmingly backed BAA's call that it should be allowed a price control formula that enabled it to fund major investments such as T5.

But local authorities and local resident groups wanted wider environmental issues to be considered.

Directors who fail net £23m as their reward

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

The rewards of failure for directors of the top 250 British companies have soared in the first half of this year to £22.8m, almost matching the £23.2m paid in compensation for loss of office for the whole of last year.

A survey by Pirc, the shareholder consultancy firm, found the total payout over the last 30 months was £65m. It said this could have been reduced if the advice of the Greenbury report, published a year ago today, had been followed.

The Greenbury report pressed for a move towards restricting directors' rolling contracts to a year or less, but it accepted there could be special reasons for longer periods.

Anne Simpson, Pirc director, said: "The danger is that the majority of companies are claiming to be the exception."

Although three-year rolling contracts have fallen from 44 per cent before the Greenbury report to 5 per cent of companies surveyed, two-year contracts have more than doubled from 24 to 53 per cent. One-year contracts have risen from 30 per cent in 1993-94 to 40 per cent.

The Pirc report also confirmed widespread criticisms of long-term incentive schemes

introduced as a result of the Greenbury report, many of which have easy performance targets and pay out enormous sums if they are fully met.

Pirc found in an analysis of 31 schemes that the long-term schemes offered rewards ranging from 50 per cent of short-term bonus to 400 per cent of directors' basic remuneration. More than half failed to provide sufficient data to calculate the potential gains.

The Greenbury report said performance targets should be stretching, but 42 per cent of schemes paid out in shares for below average performance.

Few schemes disclosed their current ranking against the chosen comparator group of companies, making it impossible to assess whether the target was challenging. Some companies even paid out for earnings-per-share growth in line with economic growth.

And while Greenbury said a three-year performance period should be the minimum, this has become the maximum for more than 90 per cent of schemes. Of 103 companies in the top 350 with long-term plans, only 42 have put them to a shareholder vote, as recommended.

Ms Simpson said: "There is a danger of long-term schemes becoming overly complex and failing in their purpose."

CBI shows backing for Labour strategy

MICHAEL HARRISON

The Confederation of British Industry will today come its closest yet to endorsing much of Labour's plans for the economy when it unveils its business manifesto for the next election.

The document, *Prospering in the Global Economy*, will back New Labour's strategy on inflation, control of public spending, independence for the Bank of England and rejection of penal rates of taxation.

It will also endorse Labour leader Tony Blair's pledges on Europe, education and training and investment. The two areas in which the CBI remains opposed to Labour policy are social legislation - in particular the imposition of a national minimum wage - and plans for a windfall tax on the utilities.

However, even on the Social Chapter there are signs that Labour is moving closer to the business community with Mr Blair's apparent offer to oppose the extension of qualified majority voting to proposals introduced by Brussels under the Social Protocol.

Speaking before publication of the business manifesto, the CBI's director-general, Adam Turner, said there had been a great deal of convergence on economic and industrial policy between Labour and the Conservatives.

He insisted the CBI would not take sides before the election and would maintain political impartiality, nor was the manifesto an attempt to second guess its outcome. But he conceded that a large number of companies were now working on the assumption that a Labour victory was a "significant possibility but not a certainty".

Mr Turner said it was impossible to ignore the shift in Labour policy which followed its renunciation of Clause Four on public ownership.

The manifesto will also call for Britain to retain its option on whether to join a single currency.

IN BRIEF

• Arizona state commissioners have overturned an agreement last weekend by the state's securities regulators to sign a deal with the Lloyd's insurance market that allows a £3.2bn rescue plan to be extended to American members. Utah is also thought to have backed out. The American Names Association said it expected the agreements with Lloyd's to be challenged and stopped in public hearings in at least five other states including Connecticut and California. Lloyd's said 33 states, representing 89 per cent of the 2,700 US names, had signed or given indications that they would sign by today.

• The Investors Compensation Scheme, the safety net for victims of fraud or poor advice, has declared in default Knight Williams, the financial advice firm, clearing the way for compensation claims worth up to £8m from at least 900 investors. Knight Williams, which went into voluntary liquidation a year ago, faced a mass of claims from investors, many of them elderly, alleging that they had been mis-sold highly expensive policies and were not properly advised as to their risks. The company was fined £50,000 by Fintbra, its regulator, in 1994 but opposed clients' compensation claims.

• Merrill Lynch, which took over Smith New Court last year, said its second quarter net earnings of \$433m (£278m) were the highest quarterly figures in its history. The profit was 53 per cent higher than the \$283m posted in the same period last year.

• ING Barings settled a New York lawsuit against Deutsche Morgan Grenfell for poaching staff, with an agreement that former ING staff at DMG will not contact any current or potential clients until 3 September. Neither firm will solicit investment banking or broker-dealer staff from the other for an agreed period.

• Campari, the sports and leisure goods group, was put into liquidation despite a rearguard action from small shareholders. Neville Kahn and Chris Hughes of Coopers & Lybrand were appointed joint liquidators to the group. Their appointment was opposed by small shareholders, but they were out-voted by 3,077,160 to 269,271 at a meeting in London. Mr Kahn said the UK assets of the group were small and secured creditors would effectively be paid from realisations from the Dutch arm, which has guaranteed the outstanding £2.3m of loan stock. Unsecured creditors are owed £4m, of which £2.5m is inter-company debt.

• The Chancellor Kenneth Clarke rejected calls from the CBI to reduce the scope of the Private Finance Initiative. In a report last week the employers organisation urged the Government to scrap the rule requiring all Whitehall capital spending project to be tested against the PFI saying it should only apply to schemes costing more than £10m. But Mr Clarke told a CBI conference that he wanted to make the PFI available to the widest extent possible, including health and education schemes costing as little as £600,000.

• Banks could be discouraged from carrying on the trend for outsourcing of information technology and other services if the opinion of the European Advocate General on a VAT case is confirmed by the European Court of Justice. The Advocate General, whose opinion is usually followed by the court, has ruled in a Danish case that banks should pay VAT on such services as administration and data processing if they are carried out by a third party.

Goldsborough boss buys shares as bid fails

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Goldsborough Healthcare chief executive Graham Smith yesterday went on a £984,000 share-buying spree as his company fought off the £71m bid from rival nursing home group Westminster Healthcare by a comfortable margin.

Mr Smith's purchases, which take his holding to 3.4 per cent, were accompanied by his merchant banking advisers SBC

Warburg. The bank spent £2.7m at the same 150p-a-share price to take a 4.1 per cent stake in the group.

The buying came as the bidder announced that by yesterday's close it had received acceptances covering 40.97 per cent of Goldsborough's shares, well short of the 50 per cent required, causing the bid to lapse. Westminster's shares ended

up 3p at 298p, while Goldsborough's fell 3p to 145p. At yesterday's price, the 54-for-100 share offer valued Goldsborough at just short of 161p, compared with a cash alternative of 156.6p.

The failure of the bid is surprising, given that the shares have never risen above the 170p at which they were floated just over two years ago. There were suggestions yesterday that

institutions were registering their dissatisfaction at the imposition of a truncated 21-day bid timetable by SBC Warburg.

One source said: "The institutions don't want people to get away with this. Suddenly in the last few days this has come up again and again."

The 21-day timetable was also a factor in Amec's escape from the Norwegian group Kvaerner earlier this year, despite years of underperformance at the group.

Pat Carter, Westminster's chief executive, described the failure of the bid as disappointing, but said consolidation in the industry would continue.

Graham Smith, Mr Carter's opposite number at Goldsborough, said: "I think we won the argument that this was not an issue of consolidation but of diversification."

Economy: PSBR figures expose fragile state of finances as Bank Governor tells MPs of his fears

Borrowing rise puts Chancellor on the spot

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The fragile state of the government's finances was exposed yesterday by figures showing that its borrowing, excluding privatisation proceeds, was higher in the first three months of this financial year than last year. It was an embarrassing blow to the Chancellor's assertion that the shortfall between revenue and spending remains on a downward trend.

The message was rubbed home by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, who told MPs on the House of Commons Treasury committee yesterday that the slippage in government borrowing made him "uncomfortable".

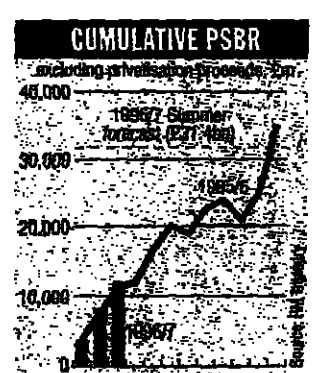
"If the Chancellor is comfortable with that it must be because he knows more about it than I do," he said. Yesterday's borrowing fig-

ures also led to a clash between the Prime Minister and Labour leader Tony Blair in the House of Commons on the eve of today's debate on the economy.

Mr Blair asked Mr Major: "Do you recall promising the country at the last election that you would balance the Budget? How do you square that with today's further disastrous borrowing figures?" Mr Major replied that government borrowing would continue to fall.

Borrowing totalled £3.6bn in June, the third month running where the gap between revenues and spending increased. The public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) was £1.2bn in April-June, excluding privatisation proceeds of £1.3bn. This compares with £1.3bn in the same months last year.

Tax revenues are now growing in line with the Treasury's new, lower forecast, although subdued due to the income tax



George warns of growth threat to inflation

The Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, warned yesterday that the Government risks missing its inflation target if growth is as buoyant as it hopes in the next 18 months, writes Diane Coyle.

Mr George's remarks raised the prospect of further disagreements over interest rates with Chancellor Kenneth Clarke in the coming months. Minutes of last month's monetary meeting, out today, are expected to show that Mr Clarke ignored the Governor's advice in deciding to cut base rates by a quarter point.

Mr George told the cross-party Treasury select committee of MPs yesterday he was more pessimistic than the Treasury about the outlook for inflation as consumer spending picks up. Consumer spending growth above 4 per cent was "not compatible with low inflation for very long", he said.

"At some point it would mean that monetary policy would need to be tightened... Quite at what point and to what extent is something I could not speculate about."

Mr George said he was concerned, too, about the higher-than-expected level of government borrowing. Interest rates would have to respond if borrowing stayed too high at a time when the economy was growing rapidly.

The Governor defended the Bank's record in forecasting inflation, criticised by the Chancellor recently. "We've been on the high side but we have been more optimistic on inflation than most outside forecasters," he said.

Mr George said the Bank shared the Treasury's view about the general economic outlook, even if it disagreed on the precise figures. There would be an acceleration in demand,



Eddie George: Interest rates would have to respond

fuelled by consumer spending. Although the Bank's economists did not expect a big upturn in inflation, they thought inflation would be "somewhat stronger" than the Treasury forecast beyond the end of 1997.

He added that UK monetary policy had not gained as much in credibility as he had hoped it would.

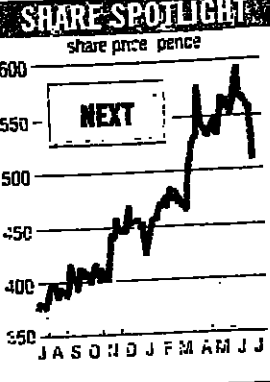
"People in the financial markets still have to be persuaded that we will stick to inflation at 2.5 per cent," he said.

Independence for the Bank of England would improve credibility, he said, and help reduce the interest rate premium the British government must pay to borrow money.

market report/shares

Bad day for blue chips, even worse for second-liners

DATA BANK
FT-SE 100
3632.3 -66.0
FT-SE 250
4201.0 -90.6
FT-SE 350
1825.5 -34.5
SEAQ VOLUME
781.2m shares,
35,250 bargains
Gifts Index
92.62 -0.21



For blue chips it was the worst day since John Redwood challenged John Major for the Tory leadership just over a year ago: for second liners it was the sharpest decline since October 1989.

The response to New York's slide left the FT-SE 100 index down 66 points at 3,632.3, its lowest since February when it

started a record run which took it to 4,568.5 in April. The slump caught many observers on the hop. Thoughts still linger that New York's stranglehold on London had ended. But the latest setback proves once again the wisdom of one of the stock market's oldest sayings: "When New York sneezes London catches a cold."

Even so, the economic ties between the two nations have been greatly reduced since the advent of the EU. But as New York is the world's largest market, it is unable to completely ignore its influence.



MARKET REPORT
DEREK PAIN
Stock market reporter
of the year

Before it was launched the FT-SE International, the organisation responsible for the market indices, had for its own records kept tabs on the 250 index. Allowing for back calculations there were bigger slumps in October 1989 and during the 1987 crash.

The 250 index is now at its lowest since February when it

also a heaven-sent opportunity to get its books in the apple pie order it had for long dreamed about.

Many shares, particularly among the second and third liners and on AIM, were smashed as market makers took advantage of the opportunities New York provided.

There was not a great wave of selling: it was more a buyers' strike as most investors, big and small, sat on the sidelines letting the hysteria wash over them.

Shares with a big US exposure took the brunt of the blue chip assault with Pearson off 24p at 619p; Grand Metro-

politan (suddenly no longer a bid candidate) 16p at 418p and Hanson 6p to 161p.

High fliers also got their wings singed. Next, the retailer, tumbled 33p to 507p and Dixons 21p to 516p. Daily Mail & General Trust "A" lost 140p to 1,295p and BTG, the old British Technology Group which has been mauled since it arrived in the FT-SE 250 index last week, gave up 128p to 1,625p.

Financials felt the strain as worries surfaced that market activity would dry up. Perpetual, the fund management group, lost 140p to 2,130p and Mercury Asset Management 41p to 894p.

Pharmaceuticals were back in the sick bay. British Biotech, at one time down to 1,900p, managed to claw its way back to 2,030p, a fall of only 10p but significantly 20p below its rights issue price.

The £143.4m cash call closes today with the underwriters destined to take up much of the issue.

Attempts to get shares moving ahead usually failed. ABN Amro Hoare & Gower put a 420p target on General Electric Co and watched the price fall from 365p to 357.5p.

But P&O put on 8p to 500p as Whitehall eased restrictions on cross channel ferry operations and break up hopes bobbed around.

BAA displayed its relaxation with the latest Civil Aviation Authority package with a 15p gain to 495p and Sun Life & Provincial edged ahead 2p to 221p on new business figures.

British Energy had another lacklustre session, off 5p (after 5p) at 91p. Although turnover, at almost 29 million, was the highest of the day it was dramatically below Monday's level.

Albert Fisher, following a City presentation and buy advice from Barclays de Zoete Wedd, managed to squeeze out a 0.75p gain to 44.25p and Blenheim, the exhibitions group, came to life, gaining 15p to 438p, on renewed speculation that United News & Media is about to strike. UNM fell 27p to 629p.

A trio of profit warnings added to the despair. Automotive Precision fell 22p to 108p; Hunting 34p to 143p and Tay Homes 25p to 121p.

Memory Corporation, the computer chips group, lost a further 13p to 45p and Intelligent Environments failed to draw support from a Teather & Greenwood buy note, falling 7p to 71p.

Hat Pin, a recruitment group specialising in advertising, will test the new issue market today when it arrives on AIM. Stockbroker Gerard Vivian Gray placed 1.1 million shares at 68p. The cash is being used to expand the core business and develop a television production side, Red Door Productions. Once part of the Guidehouse Group, Hat Pin was the subject of a management buyout in 1991. Chairman Gay Haines, formerly Collett Dickinson Pearce, joined two years ago.

Umeco, an aerospace distribution specialist, shaded 2p to 211p. More than 1.5 million shares have been taken up by six institutions at 205p. Some 475,000 shares came from director Osman Abdullah. Last year Umeco produced profits of £1.85m with £2.5m expected this year.

Share Price Data
Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
Other details: Ex rights x Ex-dividend x Ex all x United Securities Market's Suspended x PP Party Paid pm x Paid Shares x 4 AM Stock

The Independent Index

FT-SE 100 - Real-time	00	Starting Point	04	Provisional Issues	36
UK Stock Market Report	01	Bullion Report	05	Waste Shares	39
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	06	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	07	High Street Banks	41

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
British Gas	230,000	Scottish Power	50,000	National Power	70,000
BAA	40,000	ASDA Group	30,000	Falck	20,000
Unilever	100,000	Claxton	20,000	Waste	10,000
BT	100,000	Claxton	20,000	Waste	10,000

FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

Time	Index	Time	Index	Time	Index
Open	3648.2	Down	50.1	11.00	3632.3
09.00	3648.2	Down	50.1	12.00	3632.3
10.00	3648.2	Down	50.1	13.00	3632.3

Telecommunications

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	1,200	+10	100,000
Telecom Italia	1,100	+10	50,000

Transport

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Airways	1,500	+10	20,000
Virgin Atlantic	1,400	+10	10,000

Water

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Thames Water	1,300	+10	10,000
Anglian Water	1,200	+10	5,000

Support Services

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Unilever	1,000	+10	10,000
ASDA	900	+10	5,000

Pharmaceuticals

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Biotech	2,000	+10	10,000
Wellcome	1,800	+10	5,000

Other Financial

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Perpetual	2,100	+10	10,000
Mercury	2,000	+10	5,000

Retailers, Food

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Dixons	500	+10	10,000
Next	500	+10	5,000

Retailers, General

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Debenhams	400	+10	10,000
Debenhams	400	+10	5,000

Printing & Paper

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Wiggins Teape	300	+10	10,000
Wiggins Teape	300	+10	5,000

Property

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Land	2,500	+10	10,000
British Land	2,500	+10	5,000

Life Insurance

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Prudential	1,500	+10	10,000
Prudential	1,500	+10	5,000

Media

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Daily Mail	1,200	+10	10,000
Daily Mail	1,200	+10	5,000

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KAM KOTHIA, BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTOR, TELEVISION COMMUNICATIONS

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Alcoholic Beverages

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Heineken	1,200	+10	10,000
Heineken	1,200	+10	5,000

Banks, Merchant

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Barclays	1,500	+10	10,000
Barclays	1,500	+10	5,000

Banks, Retail

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
HSBC	1,300	+10	10,000
HSBC	1,300	+10	5,000

Engineering Vehicles

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Volvo	1,100	+10	10,000
Volvo	1,100	+10	5,000

International

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Deutsche Bank	1,400	+10	10,000
Deutsche Bank	1,400	+10	5,000

Diversified Industrials

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Unilever	1,000	+10	10,000
Unilever	1,000	+10	5,000

Extractive Industries

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
BP	1,300	+10	10,000
BP	1,300	+10	5,000

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Asahi	1,200	+10	10,000
Asahi	1,200	+10	5,000

Electricity

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Energy	1,400	+10	10,000
British Energy	1,400	+10	5,000

Building/Construction

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Woolworths	1,100	+10	10,000
Woolworths	1,100	+10	5,000

Electronics

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Next	500	+10	10,000
Next	500	+10	5,000

Food Manufacturers

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Unilever	1,000	+10	10,000
Unilever	1,000	+10	5,000

Food Distribution

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
ASDA	900	+10	10,000
ASDA	900	+10	5,000

Health Care

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Glaxo	1,300	+10	10,000
Glaxo	1,300	+10	5,000

Household Goods

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Debenhams	400	+10	10,000
Debenhams	400	+10	5,000

Insurance

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Prudential	1,500	+10	10,000
Prudential	1,500	+10	5,000

Chemicals

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Imperial Chemical	1,200	+10	10,000
Imperial Chemical	1,200	+10	5,000

Engineering

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Volvo	1,100	+10	10,000
Volvo	1,100	+10	5,000

Building Materials

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Woolworths	1,100	+10	10,000
Woolworths	1,100	+10	5,000

Distributors

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Woolworths	1,100	+10	10,000
Woolworths	1,100	+10	5,000

Investment Companies

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Investment	1,200	+10	10,000
Investment	1,200	+10	5,000

Investment Trusts

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Investment	1,200	+10	10,000
Investment	1,200	+10	5,000

Leisure & Hotels

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Leisure	1,200	+10	10,000
Leisure	1,200	+10	5,000

Life Insurance

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Prudential	1,500	+10	10,000
Prudential	1,500	+10	5,000

Media

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Daily Mail	1,200	+10	10,000
Daily Mail	1,200	+10	5,000

Government Securities

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Government	1,200	+10	10,000
Government	1,200	+10	5,000

Index-linked

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Index-linked	1,200	+10	10,000
Index-linked	1,200	+10	5,000

Shorts

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Shorts	1,200	+10	10,000
Shorts	1,200	+10	5,000

Mediums

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Mediums	1,200	+10	10,000
Mediums	1,200	+10	5,000

Longs

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Longs	1,200	+10	10,000
Longs	1,200	+10	5,000

Rights Issues

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Rights Issues	1,200	+10	10,000
Rights Issues	1,200	+10	5,000

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Recent Issues	1,200	+10	10,000
Recent Issues	1,200	+10	5,000

0800 22 0151

Sun Life has delivered the goods

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Bucyant first-half new business figures from Sun Life yesterday seemed to justify the massive over-subscription of its anonymous parent's offer for sale last month. Unfortunately, while the insurance group has delivered the goods, the stock market has not. Shares in Sun Life & Provincial have remained below their 235p placing price since their return to the stock market last month after a four-year absence.

The group appears to have run into a host of problems, not the least investors' declining appetite for new issues. In such circumstances, an opportunistic flotation will not be well received by investors and Sun Life bears all the hallmarks of opportunism.

The group appears to have been thrown together over the last couple of years by its parent, the French insurance group Union des Assurances de Paris, which still owns 60 per cent of the equity. In 1994, the French paid £267m for UAP Provincial, a general insurer that also owns Exeter Bank. Then last year, UAP paid £57m for the outstanding 50 per cent of Sun Life, the UK's fourth-largest life insurer, which it did not own. The two were amalgamated with New Ireland, an Irish composite insurer.

The whole lacked obvious coherence to City investors and it also had the unhappy effect of saddling Sun Life with a general business just as the insurance cycle turns down. To cap it all, the group was offering none of the takeover potential that has been supporting the share price of others in the sector.

That said, the shares may be worth a second look, as yesterday's 2p uptick to 221p acknowledges. Total new business sales, up 19 per cent to £144m in the first six months of the year, was a good result. It tends to confirm that the

life and pensions market is indeed recovering from the blows over the past couple of years. It also shows that Sun's strength in the independent financial intermediaries sector is paying dividends again. The group's 8 per cent market share should eventually mean it is well placed in that market, which should do well as investors become more sophisticated and shy away from tied company representatives.

The problem has been that Sun's costs have been uncompetitive and it has lost market share, particularly to the mutual insurers. With luck, moves earlier this year to cut charges in areas like personal pensions, single premium pensions and flexible annuities should correct that. Underwriting losses on general insurance and higher

interest charges will hit this year. Profits could fall to £145m from last year's £173m, but a forward yield of 5.6 per cent may support the shares. Hold.

Alders safe after duty-free sale

The planned departure of Alders' finance director, Tony Collier, in September was welcomed by analysts yesterday, not because he was bad at his job, but for the more convoluted reason that it probably means the company is not planning anything too risky with the £100m cash pile it now sits on since selling its duty-free arm to Swissair last month.

A stash of that size has been too great a temptation for many a company before and the indication that Alders will actually pay most, if not all of the cash back to shareholders was taken bullishly. The departure of Mr Collier has also been taken to indicate a winding down of the head office function now that the group comprises no more than a chain of 13 department stores and 12 Alders At Home out-of-town sites.

It is a sad reflection on the quality of many managements that shareholders prefer to have their money handed back to them to make their own investment decisions than to allow the managers they have employed to spend it themselves. But it is perhaps not surprising that managers investing cash because they feel they have to rather than because they have lighted on a genuine opportunity tend to do so badly.

If Alders hands back most or all of the cash in the form of a share buy-back, the effect on earnings per share should be beneficial. There is plenty of mileage in taking the money off deposit and sharply reducing the number of shares over which any future earnings have to be spread.

By itself that might not be enough to justify what looks like a pretty demanding rating on brokers' admittedly tentative forecasts. But the shares at their current level are also underpinned by the trading outlook which, according to the chairman's statement at the recent extraordinary meeting, is bright, with sales from established stores ahead about 13 per cent so far this year.

The final reason for holding on is bid speculation. Without the drag of an international duty-free arm, Alders might well be an attractive morsel to a larger retail group. Keep holding until the picture becomes a little clearer.

ALLDERS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £226.1m, share price 210p

Five-Year record

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

Turnover (£m) 580 588 631 672 736

Pre-tax profits (£m) 43.2 34.4 6.36 25.4 23.5

Operating profit (£m) 39.3 30.4 5.4 21.3 19.3

Dividends per share (pence) 6.7 7.0

Share price pence

1993 1994 1995

200 220 240 260 280

180 200 220 240 260

160 180 200 220 240

140 160 180 200 220

120 140 160 180 200

100 120 140 160 180

80 100 120 140 160

60 80 100 120 140

40 60 80 100 120

20 40 60 80 100

0 20 40 60 80

Foreign Exchange Rates

Spot 1 month 3 months

Country Dollar

US 1.5776 5.3 3.0 1000

Canada 2.3687 41.4 50.37 13716

Germany 2.2342 14.1 40.130 14622

France 2.2943 135.12 365.334 50255

Italy 2.2713 49.45 140.158 322.45

Japan 170.18 75.70 225.218 10268

ECU 1.2321 15.11 45.400 12543

Belgium 2.2984 12.7 32.25 30782

Denmark 8.9814 158.18 446.233 37533

Netherlands 2.0082 85.57 30.174 16752

Norway 4.4 4.4 4.4 4.4

Spain 166.16 21.31 69.88 12594

Sweden 10.370 0.6 1.1 6.6579

Australia 1.9046 54.46 105.102 12228

Switzerland 1.9078 20.31 67.85 12533

Hong Kong 7.2121 80.13 224.70 17285

Malaysia 3.6700 0.4 0.1 0.2485

New Zealand 2.2821 45.37 133.156 14522

Saudi Arabia 5.4818 0.0 0.0 2.7505

Singapore 2.2473 0.0 0.0 1.871

Forward rates quoted high to low at a discount; rates quoted low to high at a premium.

*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals.

For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033.

Cable cost 30p per minute (cheapest rate) 40p other rates.

Other Spot Rates

Country Sterling Dollar

Argentina 1.5560 0.0867

Australia 1.9046 0.1007

Brazil 1.5765 0.0081

China 2.2549 0.0361

France 2.2943 0.0361

Germany 2.2342 0.0361

Greece 3.6843 0.0361

India 5.4818 0.0361

Japan 170.18 0.0361

Kuwait 0.4978 0.0361

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Germany 2.2342 0.0361

Greece 3.6843 0.0361

Interest Rates

UK 5.75% Germany 2.50% US 8.75% Japan 0.50%

France 3.50% Canada 4.50%

Italy 3.00% Spain 3.00%

Netherlands 2.00% Denmark 3.25%

Belgium 2.00% Sweden 3.25%

Switzerland 3.25%

Australia 3.25%

New Zealand 3.25%

Saudi Arabia 3.25%

Singapore 3.25%

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Bond Yields

Country 1yr yield 3yr yield 5yr yield 10yr yield

UK 7.75% 7.75% 7.75% 7.75%

Germany 2.50% 2.50% 2.50% 2.50%

France 3.50% 3.50% 3.50% 3.50%

Italy 3.00% 3.00% 3.00% 3.00%

Netherlands 2.00% 2.00% 2.00% 2.00%

Belgium 2.00% 2.00% 2.00% 2.00%

Sweden 3.25% 3.25% 3.25% 3.25%

Switzerland 3.25%

Australia 3.25%

New Zealand 3.25%

Saudi Arabia 3.25%

Singapore 3.25%

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Forward

news

A star cluster is born: New astral bodies may yield clues to the solar system's evolution



Beauty in the beast: A bright light shone on the face of the void, 20,000 light-years from the Sun. And the scientists of planet Earth saw that it was good Photographs: ISO

A mammoth guide to the galaxy

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

It may look like an elephant, but to astronomers this picture is actually the clearest yet taken of the heart of the Milky Way – and they say that it shows our galaxy has a bright future – for a few billion years, at least.

They also hope it will provide definitive data on just how many stars there really are in our galaxy – a number now estimated at 50 billion – and whether the mystery of “dark matter”, thought to make up much of the content of the universe but never seen, has been solved.

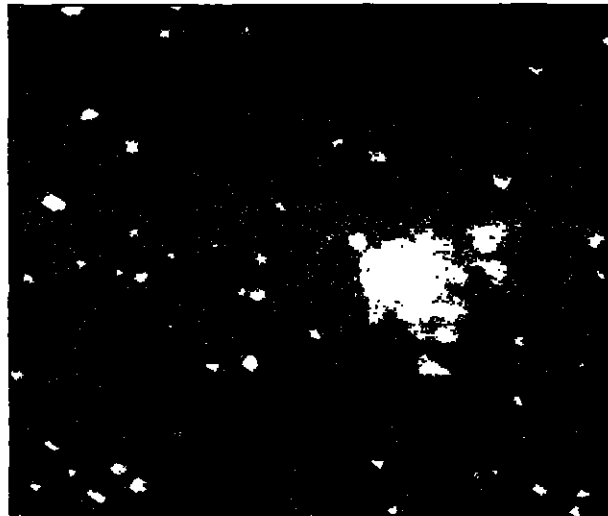
The shape in the first picture – dubbed “the Mammoth” – shows an area near the core of our galaxy, 20,000 light-years away, where stars are just beginning to form. Because the pictures were taken with an orbiting telescope which is sensitive to heat, the brighter areas are hotter – where gigantic dust clouds are collapsing in on

themselves, the first step towards becoming a star.

The second picture, of a region named “the Spider”, shows an area only 350 light-years from the centre of the galaxy, where stars are also being formed.

Because the Earth and Sun lie near the perimeter of the Milky Way, astronomers have always been intrigued by exactly what lies nearer the core, where the stars are much closer together. Some theories have suggested there may be a black hole at the centre of the galaxy, or that the stars are so close together they could spark each other into becoming supernovae.

But they could not previously see what lay there because of the thick dust clouds lying between us and the galactic core. These dust clouds show up as dark patches in the night sky. These first pictures from the \$11m (£6.5m) Infrared Space Observatory (ISO) telescope, released yesterday, can penetrate the dust – which is transparent to heat, but not light – to “see” areas of the galaxy that are heating up.



The Spider: Hidden behind Sagittarius, this gaseous mass is 350 light-years from the hub of the Milky Way

trate the dust – which is transparent to heat, but not light – to “see” areas of the galaxy that are heating up.

“This shows that the centre

middle-aged, suburban graveyard of a galaxy, because the stars will run out of fuel. But in the meantime it’s going fine.”

The real usefulness of the pictures lies in the data they offer astronomers trying to take a census of the Milky Way. “This helps define how many stars are forming, and the structure of the galaxy,” said Dr Gilmore. “And that then means we can work out how long the galaxy will last.”

The pictures may also yield important information about dark matter – the invisible mass that theory predicts must make up most of the universe. “One of the big questions is whether there are clouds of dark matter at the centre of galaxies,” said Dr Gilmore. “This is going to revolutionise our understanding.”

Astronomers hope ISO will help to answer another pressing, but difficult question: What shape is the Milky Way? Theory has long held that it is a spiral galaxy, with the solar system

located near the end of one of its two arms. But some have argued that it may be cigar-shaped, or just a jumble of stars with no special shape.

“We’re really looking forward to seeing the answers there,” said Dr Gilmore. “Is there a really dense cluster of stars in the centre? How many stars? We should know the answer in a couple of weeks.”

The pictures were presented yesterday to an international meeting of astronomers in Birmingham. Dr Gilmore, who had seen the pictures for the first time early on Monday, said they provided “a whole new window on our understanding of the galaxy we live in”.

of the galaxy is predominantly full of hot, young stars,” said Gerry Gilmore, in charge of the ISO project. “In a few billion years it’ll become a boring,

Secret x-ray reveals the real McStone

JAMES CUSICK

It’s official. The people were not fooled. The Stone of Destiny, the mystical symbol of monarchical power that John Major has kindly offered to send back to its rightful owners the Scots, is the real McCoy.

Or is it? Government papers, released for the first time since the precious stone was spirited north from beneath the Coronation Chair by zealous Scottish Nationalist students in 1950, reveal the strength of concern over whether the returned rock might be a fake. That John Major could confidently announce he was handing over the real rock, stolen 700 years ago from Scotland, was down to a secret series of x-rays taken one evening in July 1973.

Home Office officials and Westminster Abbey staff entered the Abbey after closing time and moved the Stone of Destiny, perhaps real, perhaps a classic con, to Poets Corner where they x-rayed it with a portable machine borrowed from the Ministry of Defence. But why did it take 22 years after the theft of the stone, to do the test? No answer was given yesterday.

What was on offer was an explanation, of sorts. During the stone’s brief absence from

Westminster it was rumoured that it had broken, and that a Glasgow stonemason, Robert Gray, had repaired it with three rods. The x-ray pictures taken in the Abbey in 1973 showed that there were three metal rods holding the rock together. The stonemason also included reinserting the Abbey’s clerical works, who had travelled to Arbroath in 1951 to confirm that the stone being returned back to London was the one on which Scotland’s ancient kings had been crowned.

A Home Office memo from the newly released files concludes that, given the result of the x-ray, “there could be no doubt that the stone in the Abbey is the genuine Coronation Stone.” The files also include the letters sent to the Government over the past decades asking for the Stone of Scotland to be sent home.

Precisely where that home will be, is to be left to the Scots themselves. In a model demonstration of home rule, the Scottish Secretary of State, Michael Forsyth, said: “The Prime Minister’s announcement to Parliament on July 3 has generated an enormous amount of interest... I am eager that we should focus now on the various criteria to be satisfied by the possible sites.”

420,000 escape negative equity

NIC CICUTTI

The number of households with negative equity dropped by more than 40 per cent in the second quarter of this year because of the surge in house prices, a report by Woolwich Building Society said yesterday.

The society said the fall, by 420,000 to 340,000, meant the number of borrowers whose outstanding loans are greater than the value of their homes is now the lowest since late 1990. In the past six months, negative equity has more than halved.

Housing analysts and the Woolwich said that the drop was a sign of the continuing recovery in the market and an indication that further improvements were likely in coming months.

John Stewart, group chief executive at the Woolwich, said: “The halving of negative equity

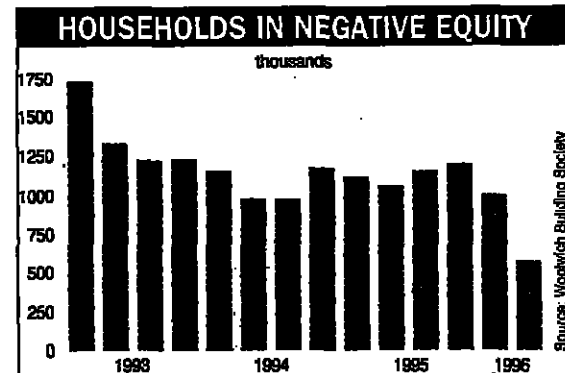
South-east of England.

The Woolwich said that the biggest falls in negative equity had been in the South-east and in London, with the number of households affected dropping by 80,000 and 75,000 respectively.

Nationally, however, the values of the homes of a further 1.25 million households exceed their mortgages by 10 per cent or less. That makes it difficult for them to fund a deposit on a new home out of the sale of their old one and meet the costs of selling and moving.

Martin Ellis, an economist at the Woolwich, said: “The results yesterday are not the end of the story for a lot of households.”

He added that a combination of the increase in house prices and the fall in negative equity should improve the supply of homes for sale and increase transaction levels. “This means



is excellent news for homeowners.

“Steadily improving confidence, underpinned by stronger disposable earnings growth, low interest rates and highly affordable housing, should ensure that the housing market recovery is sustainable.”

He added that if house prices rose by 5 per cent in the next 12 months across Britain, as increasing numbers of experts predict, the vast majority of households would drop out of the negative-equity trap.

The Woolwich survey is based on a separate report by Halifax Building Society last week, which showed that house prices had risen by 3.8 per cent nationally in the past three months. Price increases have been even sharper in the

there is not so much pressure for house price inflation over the next six months but equally, prices should not start falling again.”

Some economists believe that a too-rapid rise in house prices in the rest of the year could lead to higher interest rates.

Ian Shepherdson, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said: “I am not surprised at the Woolwich figures because this is something we have been predicting since last year.”

“This also proves that it is not necessary, as many lenders argued last year, for negative equity to be resolved before a recovery in the housing market takes place. My guess is that negative equity should mostly disappear some time next year.”

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD
No. 3041, Wednesday 17 July By Aquila Tuesday's Solution

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ACROSS

- Attributes of copyist in Anglo-Saxon (8)
- How much should one take from drunken sea-dog? (6)
- Author of “What to drink in Japan” (4)
- Amusement for string-players in New Orleans, say? (4-6)
- Any spiders running about where pharmacist works? (9)
- Dreary stuff from retired poet (4)
- Will done incorrectly by women (5)
- Structures on 7 for divers, dippers etc. (4-5)
- Ear-piercing is feeding an affection (9)
- Attempts to get retired cricketer on board (5)
- Sought as thought in it? (4)
- Terror aged suffer, declining (10)
- Sketch by old cartoonist shows desire to avoid publicity (3-7)
- Irish advanced driver (4)
- Footballers taking a lot of heating? (6)
- People who lose weight stick together endlessly at mineral resort (8)
- DOWN
- One's job on the line? (7)
- Totally dry in the fall (9)
- Essayist brought home in triumph? (5)
- Postcode, a good idea at the time? (9,6)
- Deteriorated between eighty and ninety, we hear (7)
- Turf society has room for improvement (5)
- Giant oil-producer in his native city (7)
- A ref, I felt, could have given extra time (9)
- Mince-pie does crumble in passage (7)
- New quarrels in Straits? (7)
- The trouble with lying? (7)
- Independent study (5)
- Love-game, perhaps – last in the series (5)

Secret x-ray reveals the real McStone

JAMES CUSICK

It’s official. The people were not fooled. The Stone of Destiny, the mystical symbol of monarchical power that John Major has kindly offered to send back to its rightful owners the Scots, is the real McCoy.

Or is it? Government papers, released for the first time since the precious stone was spirited north from beneath the Coronation Chair by zealous Scottish Nationalist students in 1950, reveal the strength of concern over whether the returned rock might be a fake. That John Major could confidently announce he was handing over the real rock, stolen 700 years ago from Scotland, was down to a secret series of x-rays taken one evening in July 1973.

Home Office officials and Westminster Abbey staff entered the Abbey after closing time and moved the Stone of Destiny, perhaps real, perhaps a classic con, to Poets Corner where they x-rayed it with a portable machine borrowed from the Ministry of Defence. But why did it take 22 years after the theft of the stone, to do the test? No answer was given yesterday.

What was on offer was an explanation, of sorts. During the stone’s brief absence from

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Address _____ Postcode _____

Signed _____ Date _____

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1. I have completed every form, photograph and a cheque or postal order payable to the Heart of Britain Competition, and I have enclosed it in the envelope provided.

2. Only black & white or colour prints (max size 10cm x 15cm) will be accepted. I have signed the back of each photograph and enclosed it in the envelope provided.

3. I agree that the photographs and the book will be sent to the Royal Brompton Hospital for the Heart of Britain Competition.

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